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A0624 – June 11, 2006 – Rev 19:11-21 – The Descent Of The Warrior King -
Part 2

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

Revelation 19:11-16 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes *are* a flame of fire, and on His head *are* many diadems; and He has a name written *on Him* which no one knows except Himself. ¹³ *He is* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses. ¹⁵ From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the

fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. ¹⁶ And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

Revelation 19:17 And I saw (1SAAI) an angel having stood (PerfAPart) by the sun. The perfect participle, **having stood**, indicates that the angel was already standing **near the sun** and John is just now seeing him. The angel in Rev 7:2 arose from the rising of the sun and this could be the same angel or another. **and he shouted (3SAAI) [in] a great voice, saying [to] all the birds that fly in midheaven, "Come, be gathered (2PAPImp).** The passive voice of the command **be gathered**, signifies that even though the angel is speaking to **the birds** he is likely referring to some rational being behind the **birds** so that they are gathered by some other force in the same way that the animals of Noah's day were gathered to the ark. The location of gathering is **the great feast/supper of God**. This is the feast of human flesh that God prepares for the birds by way of the outpouring of His wrath. It is a horrible picture of human carnage designed to accentuate the greatness of Christ's victory. This kind of supper is a radical contrast to the marriage supper of the Lamb predicted earlier in 19:9 for those who enter the Millennial Kingdom. However, those who spurn God's grace will not enjoy the supper of the Lamb but will be the main course for the supper of the birds! Severe judgment awaits any and all who reject the grace of God. This gathering of the birds is, of course, a gathering for the battle of Armageddon. Why?

Revelation 19:18 so that you may eat (2PAAS) is the reason they are gathered. They will need to clean up the corpse-laden battlefield. Europe was saturated in blood after WWII but there has never been a battlefield like this; literally millions of bodies will lie lifeless in a pool of blood, the greatest single destruction of human life the world has ever seen. However terrible such destruction of human life sounds it is as nothing compared to spending eternity in the lake of fire (review 14:11). The lake of fire is such a terrible place it was not even made for human beings (cf Matt 25:41). Now, returning to our subject at hand, before they enter the eternal lake of fire they will be the main course for the birds after Armageddon. On that day these birds will **eat [the] flesh of kings and flesh of officers** (*chiliarkos* - over 600-1000 men) **and [the] flesh of mighty men and [the] flesh of horses and of those sitting upon them and [the] flesh of all men, both freemen and slaves and small and great.** The description of the feast describes all the different classes of food available for the birds to feast upon starting with the delicacies, **the flesh of kings** who have led their armies to gather against God at Harmageddon. These kings are described in Rev 16:12-14. These kings design the strategy, appoint officers, and stand at a distance from the action giving orders. The **flesh of officers;** *chiliarkos*, men who have command over 1,000 men and carry out the orders of the

kings. The **flesh of mighty men**, men who are great warriors, trained in the arts of war and physically fit for dangerous missions. The **flesh of horses**, some are surprised that **horses** would be the mode of transportation with such advanced technology. Why not tanks, airplanes and helicopters? I take it that advanced technology will not be available during the second half of the Tribulation. Why? *First*, the sixth seal takes place just before the middle of the Tribulation and it shakes the heavens and the earth. Now, it is difficult to imagine that satellites used to guide advanced weaponry according to Global Positioning Systems (GPS) will survive such a tremendous destructive shaking. To get a feel for the level of destruction read Rev 6:12-17 not to mention the Trumpet and Bowl judgments that come after that great shaking yet prior to the Battle of Armageddon. *Second*, the mark of the beast issued by the Antichrist will not use advanced technology (such as credit cards or RFID devices). Instead, the Greek is very clear that it will be a tattoo or brand etched upon the surface of the right hand or forehead. There is but one mark and it does not distinguish one person from another, it rather unites them. This shows that primitive techniques will be revived, probably due to the loss of advanced technology. *Third*, haven't you found it odd that Israel's enemies gather in Israel in order to exterminate them? Why not just shoot missiles from great distances to destroy them? The probable reason is because they are not operational. Thus, they must resort to gathering in the land of Israel and riding **horses** in order to engage them with hand-to-hand combat. So, the **flesh of horses** will also be feasted on by the birds. As well, the **men who rode the horses and the flesh of all men, both freemen and slaves and small and great**. This is a catch all. However, not **all men** on planet earth will gather at this battle. The **all** means **all** kinds of **men**, but there will be Gentiles who do not gather for this war. We know this because after Armageddon the sheep/goats judgment will follow (Matt 25:31-46). This is a judgment for those left alive on earth after the Tribulation. The sheep will enter the millennial kingdom and the goats will be killed at that point, which is after Armageddon. The point here is that all classes of men make their stand against God at Armageddon and all who make this stand will be killed and their carnage will cover the battlefield and be eaten by vultures and other scavenging birds. God is no respecter of persons.

Revelation 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and his soldiers having been gathered (PerfPPart). John gets a preview of those gathered at Armageddon. They have a single purpose unified under the **beasts** command. The words **having been gathered** are a perfect passive participle and recall the fact that they were all gathered to this location by some other force, namely the three demonic spirits who went forth from Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet under the sixth bowl in Rev 16:13-14. Preparatory for such a gathering God dried up the Euphrates River so the kings

of the East could make their way to the battleground. Why have they **been gathered? to make war with the One sitting upon the horse and with His army.** It has been asked of me, “How can they be gathered on earth to make war against Christ who sits in heaven? How can they be making a stand against God as Ps 2 describes? There are four aspects to answering this question. *First*, to invade the Holy Land is to attack God because the land is His (Lev 25:23) and Jerusalem is His habitation. Thus, since the antichrist and his armies have invaded the Holy Land then this is considered an attack against God. *Second*, to gather against Israel is to gather against God because of the special connection that Israel has to God. God chose Israel to carry out two tasks in world history. First, to carry special revelation to the world and second, to bring salvation to the world through the Jewish Messiah, Jesus. As such, Satan has a special and intense hatred for this people. So, after he is kicked out of heaven at the middle of the Tribulation he will persecute Israel for the latter half of the Tribulation. This gathering at Harmageddon will be his final attempt to exterminate Israel. *Third*, the instrument who leads Satan’s attack is the Antichrist. Ultimately, the seed of the woman and the seed of Satan must clash in combat. Christ defeated Satan at the cross but his final demise will not be sealed until a later point. At this point, Satan wants to thwart God’s plan by exterminating Israel, setting up his throne in Israel in the city of Jerusalem, and ruling the nations through his seed, Antichrist. So, here, the seed of Satan, Antichrist, is gathering against the seed of the woman, Christ. *Fourth*, the earthdwellers got a glimpse into the throne room of God during the 6th seal. “the sky was split apart like a scroll...and they said to the mountains and the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb’” (Rev 6:14, 16). So, they are very aware of where their enemy dwells and thus, it is legitimate to say they are gathering against God and/or Christ and His armies.

Of course, the **army** of Christ here are is composed of the Church with the possible inclusion of the white cherubs which we ride when following the Warrior-King.

Revelation 19:20 And the beast was seized (3SAPI), presumably he will be seized by Christ. Notice, there is no description of the battle. It seems that the sudden transition from verse 19 to 20 is indicative of the lightning fast military strike, in the span of a heartbeat the **beast** will be **seized**. **The beast** referred to here is the “beast out of the sea” of Rev 13:1. We nicknamed him the Antichrist. He’s second in command. His rank would be comparable to that of the General of the Army or Air Force. The only person who holds a higher rank will be Satan who is first in command and holds the position of Commander-in-Chief. We’ll find out what happens to him in chapter 20:1-6. So, the Antichrist will be **seized...and with him the false prophet**. So, the counterfeit Trinity is

being handled by the second person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ. In civilized warfare high ranking officers were not fired upon, it was a rule of military engagement. Now, in recent years, with the rise of terrorism this has changed and militaries tend to work from the top down. The rule of thumb is “take out the high ranking officers and it will hurt the organization.” (e.g. the US just recently took out the leader of al Qaeda, al Zarqawi) Now, that seems to be the way Christ does business. He’s going to start the battle by taking out the top men, Antichrist and the false prophet and work his way down to the rest of the soldiers. Now, who is the false prophet? He is the “beast out of the earth” from Rev 13:11. He’s powerful and he’s third in command under the Antichrist, holding the rank of something comparable to the Chief of Staff or Commandant. Now, he’s the propaganda machine for the Antichrist. He directs everyone to take the mark of the beast and worship the beast. To confirm his message he does **signs**, miracles, in the presence of the statue that is set up by the Antichrist in the Tribulation Temple. These signs and miracles are designed to counterfeit Christ’s miracles and to authenticate Antichrist’s message. And the text says that these signs **deceived (3SAAI) those who took (AAPart) the mark of the beast**. They will be great signs, so great they will almost deceive the elect (Matt 24:24). So, to avoid being deceived the word of God gives signs to look out for, the key one being the abomination of desolation. Now, when this abomination, this statue or image of the beast is set up in the Tribulation Temple the end is near and the Jews better get out of town because the false prophet will set up his deceptive base, right there in Jerusalem, the city of God, and so, being there many might think he is a prophet of God. Everything is deception and the key is to keep your eyes on Scripture.

Now, those who are deceived by the signs are the same one’s that will take **the mark of the beast**. The **mark of the beast** is an etching in the skin, probably a tattoo or brand upon the surface of the right hand or forehead. And the etching is either the name of the beast or the number of his name which are numerical equivalents equaling 666. So, no matter how bad it gets on earth you don’t want to be deceived because once you’re deceived your mind tells you that the logical thing to do is take the mark and taking the mark seals your destiny in the lake of fire for all eternity. Now, the verb **took** is active voice. They actively take the mark, they are not forced to take the mark, they want it, and the reason they want it is because they are deceived. Now, that says something about the mind. Once the mind is deceived then it can’t reason properly. Now, the way this works is quite simple. We all come into the world depraved but the mind is not darkened yet. The mind is only darkened when it rejects the knowledge of God in creation and conscience. When that happens God gives the person over to worship something that is not God (Rom 1:18-25) and to commit abominable acts (Rom 1:16-32; Rev 9:20-21). And so you wonder how these people could actively take the mark and it’s because their

minds don't reason properly anymore. The logic machine doesn't operate properly because and it goes back to their personal sin. Now, not only do they take the mark of the beast but they also **worship (PAPart) his statue** or image. Again, this is active voice, they want to **worship his statue**, they are not forced to worship it, for them it is an image of their god, Antichrist, through whom Satan is being worshipped (Rev 13:4). And you should note that this idolatry is contrary to Biblical revelation (Exod 20:4-5; 1 Cor 10:14; 12:2; 2 Cor 6:16; 1 Thess 1:9; 1 John 5:21). You can't make an image of God that can embody His essence, that's what the Bible is saying in the Ten Commandments when it says, "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above." God can't be represented by an image. So, true Christianity is against all icons that attempt to represent God. Obviously we shouldn't pray to or worship God through any icon and the basic reason is because nothing in creation can embody His essence.

Now, **the two**, that is the Antichrist and the false prophet, **were thrown (3PAPI)**, obviously by Christ **alive into the lake of fire that is burning (PPPPart)**. The **lake of fire** is the place of eternal torment. Unbelievers do not go here immediately when they die, instead they go to a place called Sheol to await the great white throne judgment after the millennium. But the Antichrist and the false prophet will go there and be best buddies for 1,000 years. Now, this **lake of fire...is burning** and it's a passive participle so this means that someone is tending to the fire so that it keeps on burning and I take it that it is God (Matt 25:41). And the fuel of the fire is **sulfur** or **brimstone**. Brimstone was associated with the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and it will be associated with the **lake of fire** as well. Pure elemental **sulfur** burns with a blue flame and when it melts it turns into a red liquid. It is widely used in gunpowder and matches. So, the fuel for the **lake of fire** will be sulfur which will burn continually with a blue flame.

There is one last knot to tie here, **the two were thrown alive into the lake of fire**. Now, how does this square with other passages that seem to say that Christ will slay the Antichrist.

Daniel 8:25 He (Antichrist) will even oppose the Prince of princes, But he will be broken without human agency.

Daniel 9:27 and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

Daniel 11:45 "He (Antichrist) will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 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;

Now, there are two ways to reconcile this. The *first* view says that the verb “slay” in 2 Thess 2:8 could mean that his career will be brought to an end by being cast into the lake of fire in his natural body (Robert Thomas; cf Numb 16:30; Ps 55:15). This would fit with the terminology in Rev 19:20 that he will be "seized". However, the difficulty with this view is that it can hardly be imagined that a natural human body could survive in the lake of fire. A *second* view is that the antichrist will be executed on the field of battle, will descend to Sheol, will be given a resurrection body and then cast into the lake of fire for the 1,000 years. There is strong support for this view. First, it is the easiest rendering of 2 Thess 2:8, “the Lord will slay” him “with the breath of His mouth”. Second, the noun “alive” in Rev 19:20 is *zao* and is used in Rev 1:18 of Christ in His resurrection body and in Rev 20:4, 5 of the resurrection body of believers (Newell seems to have taken this view). Third, Isa 14:4-11 and 15-20 seem to picture the Antichrist going down to Sheol after his execution. I suggest that Revelation finishes the sequence by announcing that after his short cameo in Sheol he will be resurrected and cast into the lake of fire along with the false prophet for the 1,000 years. Fourth, it is more conceivable that a resurrected human body could survive in the lake of fire.

Revelation 19:21 And the rest were killed (3PAPI). With their leaders seized the army falls into disarray and although they do all they can to defend themselves they were all slaughtered on the field of battle. The instrument of warfare was **the sword of the One sitting upon the horse that came out (AAPart) of His mouth**, that is, the very word of God is able to kill (It’s interesting that the Bible teaches the opposite truth as well when it says that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God, Matt 4:4). So, man both lives and dies by the word of God. Live by believing the gospel today, that Christ died for your sins according to the Scriptures and was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. As a motivation to believe the gospel Rev 14:20 adds that the blood of those who gather against Him will form a lake four feet deep and 192 miles long. **And all the birds were fed (3PAPI)**, they were already gathered in advance of the impending judgment and now dinner is served.

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