

The Returning King

Read Isaiah 63:1-6 and Revelation 19:11-21

We have had a mini-series here on King Jesus – The King Arrives, The Risen King, and now the King Returns.

Revelation 19 is one of many passages teaching on the Second Coming of King Jesus.

From the Lord's own lips he taught:

³⁰ "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. ³¹ "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. (Mat 24:30-31)

And from the Apostle Paul:

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. (1Th 4:16-17)

And again:

when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those

who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. (2Th 1:7-8)

And Jude warns us:

Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all, (Jud 1:14-15)

Nor is this chapter in Revelation the only one that speaks of our Lord's return.

Jesus the King of glory from chapter 1 and the Lord of the Church in 2-3, is the King of history and the end of all things in chapters 4-5.

Only Jesus who died and rose again has the right and power to open the seven seals, bringing to a close this present evil age.

The 6th chapter begins with the first seal of a crowned Jesus on a white horse wearing, conquering onward; and chapter 6 ends with the 6th seal and the great day of final wrath!

Earthquake, blackened sun, blood-red moon, stars falling from above, skies splitting, and mountains and islands shaken – the kings, great men, commanders, rich and strong, every slave and freeman, hide in the caves and cry out to the mountains and rocks:

And the 6th seal is certainly a final piece: "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

At the end of the 7 trumpets, all the nations, the kingdoms of the earth, become the Lord's kingdom – he is the immediate ruler then.

In chapter 14, the Son of Man reaps the ripe harvest of the earth – grapes swelling large for the winepress of God’s wrath.

And at the end of 7 bowls of wrath, the whore Queen and her city Babylon are destroyed in 17 and 18.

We are looking only at the culmination of the King’s coming upon His chief enemies in 19. He is a King who overthrows all his foes, but He is also a King who brings in everlasting joy and peace in chapters 21 and 22.

The final judgment is at the end of chapter 20, preceded by the millennium and the final overthrow of Satan.

Chapter 19 begins with the hallelujah chorus and a preview of the marriage supper of the Lamb, and closes with the appearance of King Jesus, and a supper of a very different kind – the awful end of all the followers of the beast, or Antichrist, and the false prophet.

Though highly figurative and apocalyptic in style, the book portrays concrete events.

This needs to be understood as highly symbolic. Jesus riding a horse from the skies is symbolic. His armies also on white horses, a sword from his mouth, a robe soaked in blood, and nations gathered on a battlefield awaiting the attack of heaven – all point to real events but under these pictures. Though highly figurative in style, the book portrays real and concrete events.

The point is that nothing of man’s greatness or Satan’s strongest efforts of rebellion can resist this final catastrophic event. And why? Because this Jesus is going to win! This is guaranteed on account of

all we find in 11-16 – all His power, glory, dominion and determination.

Now I have arranged our message around the words of the last verse – the King and Lord of all; over the highest and best of this world.

Let us see Him returning **first** then, beginning with verse 11. See Him the King of heaven, the King of power – on a horse; and the King of majesty – a white horse!

He is the King of glory returned. Recall that at his baptism the heavens opened and the Father expressed how well-pleased He was in His Son. In his ministry, he promised the heavens would open and angels would ascend and descend upon the Son of man – John 1. As he ascended, he returned to the heavens and the glory He had with the Father before the world was. It was King Jesus who opened the heavens for the first martyr Stephen to be received by his standing and awaiting Lord. He brought Paul to the third heavens to hear things unlawful to repeat in this world. And in Rev. 4.1, He opened the heavens for John to come up and learn of things to take place afterwards. Now the heavens open and He *appears* – the epiphania, or epiphany. He who is of heaven descends again, not in humiliation but exaltation.

Then he is the King upon His Horse. What a contrast to his triumphal entrance upon a colt of a donkey, lowly, meek. Here he is all greatness and might! This is not a real horse but a picture of power, regal power, with the martial arts, the arts of warfare at his command. This is a contrast to Rev. 6:2 – of Jesus's declaring one last powerful time the everlasting gospel! There he declares peace; but not here.

Then note that he is upon a white horse. Jesus rode a *white* horse in the first seal; sat upon a *white* cloud at the great reaping of the harvest of the world – 14:14; and he sits upon a *white* throne at the end of 1000 years in the next chapter. *White* stands as a symbol of victory, of purity and of divinity, says Ladd

So what a portrait in just half of one verse! This tremendous King comes to overthrow the wicked and is himself heavenly, almighty, and holy. This is not an arbitrary person unleashed from above. No, His vengeance and wrath is pure, heavenly, holy – and unstoppable.

Let us build on this **in the next several lines**: He is the King of Faithfulness and Truth; of Righteousness and Justice; the King of Wrath and War – the “Warrior-Executioner”, says one.

The first of his names, King Faithful and True, stands over against all kings and lords he comes to judge, the many unfaithful and deceptive kings, who are unreliable and false in their promises and actions. Think of Bill Clinton promising the American people – “I did not have sex with that woman!” Or our first black President, Barak Obama, who promised the most transparent administration! King Jesus fulfills His promises, and His threats. He is the Truth. This means that He is fully reliable to His Word, His purpose, His covenant, rather than revelation of truth, which is seen in the name, the Word of God.

This is followed by his ways of righteousness and justice. The righteousness of Jesus is such good news now to repentant sinners. He fulfilled all righteousness for us by dying for our sins! But this is nothing but bad news for sinners, who think they are ok with God, and don't need their sins to be forgiven. They think they are good enough

for heaven. But no, not according to the Bible. Again, in sharp contrast to the crooked and cheating ways of this world and her leaders, this King loves righteousness and does not take a bribe.

Lastly, see his making war now, ready for the fight – oh, can you not see it in His eyes!? Here is holy pure anger on fire, fight is in his eyes! He is coming to overthrow all in his ways! See it in his feet of bronze – unstoppable! And He is intent upon it!

His eyes see all the depths, all that hides; nothing can be hid from Him. His eyes see the depth; His crown reaches all heights; His name is above every name; His Word is the omnipotent Word! His Word made worlds from nothing; held worlds with nothing; and ends worlds like it's nothing!

You are not hidden in Him, you will one day want to hide *from* him. You will prefer large rocks and mountains to crush you than to feel his anger against and upon you, forever! How his look unmans us, and sends demons shrieking for cover!

We come to **our third point** – the King's royal appearance – beginning with many crowns. This is opposed to the crowns stolen and abused by the dragon in chapter 12, and the beast in 13.

Skip then to his robe dipped in blood! Some see here his own blood, which he shed to die for us; but that cannot be. This must match the tremendous lines in Isaiah 63.

² Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like the one who treads in the wine press? ³ "I have trodden the wine trough alone, and from the peoples there was no man with Me. I also trod them in My anger and trampled them in My wrath; and their lifeblood

is sprinkled on My garments, and I stained all My raiment. ⁶ "I trod down the peoples in My anger and made them drunk in My wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth."

Jesus has won many battles already and has crushed his enemies repeatedly. But this is the final battle and he puts on his familiar robe filled with past, praise-worthy victories.

And now we come to the two middle names. The hidden name describes the depths of mystery in Him. As there are depths of darkness in evil, so there are deeper depths of blinding light in the holiness of this good King. His name is too wonderful to know exhaustively.

Nevertheless he is also the Word – the very revelation of God in the flesh; the seeable God! Jesus is the full and complete Word of God to us, our all in all, revealing the depths of God and His purpose to us, and warmly welcoming us into the glories of heaven. This is what must make the loss of this Lord and Savior so horrible to those who are found on the wrong side at last. Heaven is closed to them, and hell is opened.

We come then to the **last point and the King's weaponry** – His army, the king's sword and rod, the king's wrath down to His feet!

His army then is also in white, on white horses. Our King is the Lord of hosts, and this host includes angels who have never sinned, and holy men. The two letters to the Thessalonians say as much:

when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, (2Th 1:7)

the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. (1Th 4:16-17)

The sword from his mouth – which is also in chapter one – speaks here about His Word is the only weapon He needs to overthrow all of His enemies. As we said before, His Word creates, upholds, redeems and now judges.

And the rod comes from Psalm 2 and Isaiah 11 – hear the latter verse:

And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. (Isa 11:4)

His feet trample beneath them Satan and all who follow him – again, Isaiah 63 as well as Revelation 14:17-20. This is an execution of justice, says Hughes, that is as awesome as it is thorough.

All this is summarized by the name on his thigh, that is most likely the name on his robe at thigh level where you can plainly see as he rides upon the horse –at eye level – “King of kings, Lord of lords”!

That name comes from the OT in Deut. 10:17, Dan. 2:47, and quoted in the NT, 1 Tim. 6:15.

until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which He will bring about at the proper time-- He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom

no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen. (1Ti 6:14-16)

This leaves us only the results that follow. Behold, different kind of feast from the one that began the chapter. Here birds are called, readied, to be the cleanup crew – vultures, eagles, birds of prey, eager to feast upon the dead bodies of mankind. This begins and ends this section.

Then the end of all men who followed the beast with their kings, who were fighting against the Lord and his armies, standing with the mark of the beast in defiance of God. They will not go quietly. The men are killed or ended differently than the Beast and False Prophet. By the Lord's sword are they slain. It seems his army shares the victory without raising a weapon.

Then the right and left hand servants of Satan – the Beast or Antichrist, the false authority with the False Prophet, deceptive teaching. These are taken by undefined hands and cast immediately into the lake of fire burning hot with brimstone. It seems likely that angelic hands do this work. And their master, Satan, is taken in the next chapter and comes to the same awful lake.

So ends the present world as we know it. So ends the wicked and their leaders, the antichrist and the false prophet, the kings and lords who follow evil. So ends all that rebel against God. No weapons, no matter how great or threatening can prosper against the King on the white horse. He is armed with a sword! A rod that smashes all like pottery! An army of angels and just men made perfect like Himself. And a lake of fire! (Seiss)

What shall we say to these things? Let us hear what our Lord says:

I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who
kill the body and after that have no more that they can do.

But I will warn you whom to fear:

Fear the One who, after He has killed,
has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!

(Luke 12:4-5)