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WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST?

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION
NUMBER 32
REVELATION 19:11-18

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REVELATION 19:11-18 "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. 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. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 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. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. 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; 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."

In our last study we were looking at the great Marriage Supper of The Lamb. Now in this study we come to judgment. As someone who studied this chapter facetiously said, "It is appointed unto man once to get married and after that the judgment". It just so happens that in this chapter we study about the great Marriage Supper of The Lamb and then in the next verses we study about judgment. So Revelation 19 is the study of two suppers, The Supper of The Lamb and The Supper of the Great God. This is a judgment banquet and the story of it begins in verse 11 and the first event of that great banquet is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, in verses 11-14.

REVELATION 19:11 "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." "I saw heaven opened". This is a perfect tense and means that heaven was opened with fantastic results on the earth. Perfect tense means something that happened in the past and continues with amazing results.

The first thing we see in this study is a white horse. Remember, the Bible must be interpreted in the light of the time in which it was written. The white horse has through all the ages been ridden by conquerors. Remember that white horses were very rare and hard to get. In the Roman government a white horse was ridden by a victorious officer. After a great military victory the conqueror would return to Rome and would ride through the streets of the city on a white horse. In this way he would call attention to the spoils of battle. Riding of a white horse was always significant of victory. In our study here the one riding the white horse is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. The rider is described with two words, faithful and true. This refers to two of the characteristics of God, his justice and his veracity. Christ has ten essence characteristics and two of them are being emphasized here.

When God deals with the unbeliever it is always with justice and righteousness. When he deals with believers it is always with eternal life and love. But God is not free to love us apart from his righteousness and this is what he did on the cross. When we believe in Christ we then become the recipients of all he has to offer us. Once a person believes in Christ, he is saved forever and is qualified to live with God forever and forever. Imagine a Christian having the audacity to say that he can reaffirm his faith. In reality, you can't do that, for God has already done it for you. You are not saved by your effort and by your desire to make him Lord of all. You don't add to your salvation by something that you do. The idea that you can do something to cause you to lose your salvation, or do something to make your salvation more

sure is ridiculous. You are born again when you believe in Christ and after that experience you can never be lost again. To be sure you are at first a spiritual baby, and you have to learn how to walk with Christ and become a mature believer. Remember that grace means God does the work and we receive the result of what God does. Legalism means man does the work and God is supposed to get the credit. But remember, a spiritual baby becomes mature because of the grace of God. We start out hopeless, helpless, useless spiritually, and God by his grace, is faithful to us and leads us along and is patient with us. If you wake up alive in the morning, it is because God is faithful to you. You are alive at this moment because God is faithful and true. So climb down from your fat-headed perch and take a good look at the faithfulness of God. I heard a sermon once on the subject, "It all depends on me". The preacher said it over and over again. Well, the real truth is that nothing depends on us, it all depends on God. When you think of our sin and our stubborn way of life it is not difficult to realize that God could make better witnesses out of sticks than he can out of us. So get away from the idea that God can't get along without you.

Hold the place here in Revelation 19 and turn to 2 Timothy 2:11.

2 TIMOTHY 2:11 "It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him" "It is a faithful saying" (This refers to a principle of doctrine). "If we be dead with him". This "if" is a first class condition and it means we are dead to human good and alive to divine good. In other words, this is a picture of water baptism and it means we are dead to sin and are identified with Christ. So baptism means down with human good and up with divine good. But you see, people try to cut it with human good and human good is not enough. The filling of the Holy Spirit plus the application of doctrine equals divine good. On the other hand, negative volition plus carnality equals human good.

This verse goes on to say, "If we be dead with him, we shall also live with him". This is current positional truth. It means we are now in union with Christ and we are producing divine good.

2 TIMOTHY 2:12 "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us" There is going to be some suffering in the Christian life and he now explains this in this way. "If we suffer" (First class condition, and we do suffer) but this is only a temporary state. Please notice the next phrase "We shall also reign with him" and this is our reward.

It goes on to say "If we deny" (First class condition, and we do often deny him). Remember that ignorance of Bible doctrine causes us to deny him. "He will deny us" and this refers to burning of the wood, hay and stubble, the human good in the life of a believer. In other words, he is simply saying that we can lose our reward but we can't lose our salvation. "If we Christians believe not" (This means if we even come to the place where we even say we are not Christians, we do not believe anymore). "HE ABIDETH FAITHFUL." In other words, God cannot deny himself. Faithfulness has to do with the character of God. Even though we ignore him, stop going to church, say we are no longer Christians--even that does not change the faithfulness of God. Every time you find the word faithful it applies to the character of God as it is applied to the life of the believer. The only reason we are here and alive on the earth is that God is faithful to us. Quite often it is true that the worst sins we ever commit, we commit them after our salvation. To be sure we will suffer discipline from God, but we cannot lose our salvation. David committed the worst sins of his life after he was converted and he had to pay dearly for his sin. He was an innocent little shepherd lad, but after he was saved he committed some monstrous sins. But God extended toward David his love and immutability and God was faithful to David. God's faithfulness is the basis of eternal security. God's faithfulness is the basis for keeping us alive on the earth. God's faithfulness is the basis of all we have in the earth. And remember, any time God wants to take you out of this life, out you go. Now back to Revelation 19.

We read "And in righteousness he doth judge and make war". Now in a real sense God can't sit on a horse. Omnipresence can't be confined to sitting on a horse. The same thing is true about the cross. You can't compress omnipresence to a cross. In order for Christ to die he had to become a man. Christ had to be human to die on a cross, and when he comes back riding on a horse it is his humanity we see riding on the white horse. (When Christ ascended, God said to the humanity of Christ, "Sit down". Diety can't be compressed to a seat.) This has a present application. He is faithful and true right now. He has never changed. We are fickle, but he is faithful. In football we have seen a quarterback who would be on today and off tomorrow. We have often seen a crowd cheer a player in one moment and boo him the next. This is the way we are, but God is not like this. He is faithful all the time. God knew about your sin, but he is still faithful to you. He is also true. He keeps his word. The Second Advent is his way of keeping his word.

ACTS 1:9-11 "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Since 70 A.D. the Jews have been under the discipline from God. But God gave the Jews four unconditional covenants. God made those promises to the Jews and he is going to keep those promises. So his return is the keeping of his word. He is going to call the Jews from all the corners of the earth and they will come running, and they will believe on him and he will reestablish them in their land. He will rule and reign with them 1,000 years. God can't welsh on a promise. There is no way for him to do this.

We read "In righteousness he doth judge". Believers will never know unrighteousness from God. We were justified at the cross, and once we are in the plan of God, righteousness has been satisfied. Sin condemned us, but when we believed then righteousness and justice were satisfied. He will judge every person, the believer will receive the blessing of eternal life, the unbeliever will receive eternal damnation. Christ will establish perfect environment on the earth and religion will be thrown out forever. Unbelievers will be taken off the earth, and he will bring judgment to the entire earth. You see, it will take warfare, and death and violence to clean up the earth. It is totally impossible to have peace and perfection in the earth without judgment and war. No system of disarmament brought about by man's efforts can ever bring peace to the earth. Christ will clean up this mess with war and violence. Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace makes war. As long as you have the old sin nature you will have war. Judge and make war is for the unbeliever.

Verse 12 is a description of how Christ will return.

There are those who describe Christ as having sweet eyes with love and brotherhood for all. But notice here, the picture is just the opposite. His eyes will be as a flame of fire. This means justice and judgment. The many crowns means that all the crowns of all the nations are now placed on one head. The name written which no man knew refers to the fact that a side of Christ's personality will here be revealed which the unbeliever didn't know about. The unbeliever will be shocked to see this side of Christ's personality.

REVELATION 19:13 "And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God." A vesture was a Roman mantle. A Roman soldier had to be in charge of at least a thousand men before he could wear a vesture. This is the clothing of a military leader. The "dipped in blood" refers to the fact that his vesture was dripping with the blood of those he had killed on the battlefield. His name will

be called "The logos of God". The "Logos" means more than word. It is a technical word. John wanted to link up the Jesus of time with the God of Eternity. So Logos means the first word, the original thought and power. Christ existed millions of years before he was born and this is the idea we get from the word "Logos".

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18 "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." This verse says "The Logos of the cross". In other words, before the foundation of the world, Christ died on the cross in the plan of God for all of our sins.

REVELATION 19:14 "And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses clothed in fine linen, white and clean." Please notice that he is followed by a victorious army. Notice the people do no fighting. All the fighting is done by Jesus Christ. This is his great heavenly army. The sword coming out of his mouth refers to the slaughter of Armageddon. Christ will personally slaughter these millions at Armageddon. Notice that the whole army rode white horses and are clothed with the perfection of God. White and clean refers to no old sin natures and no human good.

REVELATION 19:15 "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." This is the sharp sword of his perfect judgment.

Please notice he will smite the nations--Nations are still around when Christ returns the second time. Ruling with a rod of iron refers to perfect discipline and justice. The rod of God's justice is perfect.

"The winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God" refers to maximum slaughter. When God does anything, he does it completely and perfectly.

REVELATION 19:16 "And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." Quite often a Roman general would wear some sort of a banner at his side. Jesus will return on the white horse with this banner at his side--

KING OF KINGS--This is his humanity.
LORD OF LORDS----This is his deity.

REVELATION 19:17 "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" This is the great judgment supper. This is a very bright angel, the one standing in the sun. This is a supper for the vultures of justice and judgment.

REVELATION 19:18 "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." Please notice that there are seven classes involved in this judgment slaughter supper--

Kings---There are the wicked rulers.
Captains--There are the military men.
Mighty men--These are the political leaders.
Horses--This refers to the equipment of the warriors.
Those that sat on horses--This refers to the men in the armies.
Free men---This refers to the upper class of power and wealth.
Bond men--This refers to the lower classes of men.

So this is a total judgment and this comes when Christ returns for the second time. He came the first time for salvation. He will come the second time for judgment.