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A0623 – June 4, 2006 – Rev 19:11-21 – The Descent Of The Warrior King –
Part 1

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

Last week in Rev 19:1-10 we looked at the scene in heaven on the day of the Second Coming. This week we begin in heaven and descend with Christ to earth on that day.

In verse 1 John heard a great multitude of angels in heaven saying “Hallelujah”, “praise Yah”, a shortened form of the eternal and memorial name of God, YHWH. Why? Because salvation and glory and power belong to our God. God is the possessor and dispenser of salvation. He is salvation. God is also the possessor of glory, a reference to His divine essence. God is also power, inherent in His divine essence is His omnipotence. These all belong to our God. And they praise God, in verse 2 “because his judgments are

genuine and righteous". Contrary to Babylon's corrupt judgment of the saints God's judgment of Babylon is genuine and in accordance with His attribute of righteousness. So, the judgment is not based on an arbitrary or relative standard but on the absolute standard that emanates from His divine essence. Also they praise him because He has judged the great prostitute who was and has been corrupting the earth with her fornication. She deceived the world into her false sense of security in religion and wealth and for this she will be judged because it blinded the minds of the unbelieving (2 Cor 4:4). By this judgment on Babylon God will avenge the blood of His bond-servants in answer to the martyrs prayer in Rev 6:9-10 and yet His vengeance will come by her own hand. So, God's judgment on Babylon is executed by the beast-ten king alliance demonstrating how Satan's kingdom program is crumbling due to internal strife. I can't tell if this is instigated by Satan or not. If Satan plans this all I can imagine is that he is trying to move his throne from Babylon to Jerusalem and that would fit with the fact that the his army and the nations armies are gathering at Harmageddon to exterminate Israel. Now, the praise in verses 1-2 speaks as if this is already accomplished. And, in verse 3 a second time they say, "Hallelujah! Her smoke rises up forever and ever." Babylon will be a raging fire for the entire millennium as a warning against God's judgment. Then those connected with Babylon will be cast into the lake of fire for the rest of eternity. In verse 4 the twenty four elders who represent all redeemed humanity and the four living creatures who those parts of creation that cannot vocalize praise, fall down in humble prostration and worship God the Father and God the Son, who both sit on the throne saying. "Amen. Hallelujah!", a strong agreement with the doctrinal content of verses 1-3. And in verse 5 "a voice" unknown voice from the region of the throne issues a command, saying "Give praise to our God, all His bondservants" and this includes angels and men. In verse 6 the shift occurs and John hears the peak of the crescendo in this musical masterpiece. And they say "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, has become King." So, they have just witnessed the heavenly coronation of Jesus Christ as King which is described in Dan 7:13-14. He is now ready to take His rightful position on David's throne on earth. With the King's reign comes the King's marriage to His bride. As such this is a great time of rejoicing. Note verse 7, the command "Let us rejoice and be extremely glad and give the glory to Him". Why? "Because the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself read." The marriage of the Lamb to His Church will be one of the greatest moments and she has made herself ready by already undergoing the judgment seat of Christ, the judgment for rewards. And now the Lamb gives her the wedding garment in verse 8 which is not imputed righteousness but the crowing achievement of His grace, intrinsic righteousness. Then the angel said to him, "Write, Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." Now, the marriage supper of the Lamb will last for the whole millennium and the guests at that marriage supper will be the

resurrected OT saints, resurrected Tribulation saints, and all who enter the millennial kingdom in natural bodies. And the angel closes with the words, “These are the true words of God.” Probably, John felt the authority of the previous statement and **fell** down to **worship** the angel. A big no, no! The word **fell** is *pipto* and one author said, “John *piptoed* when he should have *tiptoed*!” The angel corrects him by saying, “**See that you do not do that**” a common Greek idiom not even complete in this verse (the full construction occurs at Matt 8:4; 18:10; Mark 1:44; 1 Thess 5:15). Now, I’ve always found it interesting that when people fell down to worship Christ He never rebuked them. He never said, “Don’t do that!” He always permitted it. Now, whenever someone bows down to a believer or an angel they always say, “Don’t do that!” (e.g. Acts 10:26; Rev 22:9). Jesus’ permitting others to worship Him shows that He is God and is in perfect accordance with His claim to be God on numerous occasions (e.g. John 8:58). His claims to be God were the reason the scribes and Pharisees tried to stone Him. The reason the angel gives here for not worshipping him is that he is simply a **fellow slave of you and your brethren having the testimony of Jesus**. So, the angel is a *sundoulos* a fellow-slave. He is not the Master, he is a slave of the master just like John and the rest of the John’s brethren, Church saints. So, angels are also **slaves** of God. And then the angel corrects John by telling him to **Worship God**. Why should God be worshipped and not the angel? **Because the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy**. Now, what this enigmatic saying means is that the revelation of the angel originated with Jesus Christ and not with the angel. It is Jesus’ testimony. Throughout the Book of Revelation angels are intermediaries between God and men (Rev 1:1-2). And so, there is no reason to fall down and worship an angel for prophetic knowledge comes ultimately from Christ. This verse also shows the deity of Christ because it is Jesus who is God and is to be worshipped. Now, two applications from this false step by John. *First*, if John the apostle could stumble and fall into such idolatry do you think you could? *Second*, you’d think after such a rebuke John would never make this mistake again but he does in Rev 22:8-9. So, John will once again *pipto* where he should have *tiptoed*. Like John we are not immune from falling time and again into the same idolatrous patterns. Now, today, let’s shift gears and turn to verses 11 and following.

The Horse and Rider (19:11)

Revelation 19:11 And I saw (1SAAI) heaven having been opened (PerfPPart). It had already been opened in the past and so remained open until John became aware of it at which point he sees a **white horse**. John had already seen the harlot riding upon the scarlet beast. Now he sees a rider on a **white horse**. This is the second **white horse** in revelation. The first **white horse** appeared on earth in Rev 6:2 under the first seal. And

seated on that **white horse** was a rider who personified a growing number of false Christs (Matt 24:5). These false Christs brought about a temporary peace on earth by way of a bloodless takeover (Rev 6:1-2). Now, this **horse** is not ridden by false Christs but by one who is faithful and true. He is the Christ, the warrior-King, about to issue in permanent peace on earth by way of a bloody takeover (19:17ff). So, Christ who once strolled into Jerusalem mounted on a donkey (Zech 9:9) is now mounted upon His **horse** ready for battle. Now, at this point Christians want to say there are animals in heaven since Jesus is riding a white horse. To see how this is false turn with me to Ps 18:8 where we see that Jesus is really riding on a cherub that looks something like a horse.

Psalm 18:8-14 Smoke went up out of His nostrils, And fire from His mouth devoured; Coals were kindled by it. ⁹ He bowed the heavens also, and came down With thick darkness under His feet. ¹⁰ He rode upon a cherub and flew; And He sped upon the wings of the wind. ¹¹ He made darkness His hiding place, His canopy around Him, Darkness of waters, thick clouds of the skies. ¹² From the brightness before Him passed His thick clouds, Hailstones and coals of fire. ¹³ The LORD also thundered in the heavens, And the Most High uttered His voice, Hailstones and coals of fire. ¹⁴ He sent out His arrows, and scattered them, And lightning flashes in abundance, and routed them.

Many descriptions of angels in the Bible give us the idea that they look like animals (e.g. Ezek 1:10; 10:14; Rev 4:6-8). So, this verse does not prove that animals go to heaven. Jesus will ride upon a white cherub in His rapid descent to earth. And one of His names is **faithful and true**. This name signifies that He is **faithful** to His promises and He is the true Messiah. **and in righteousness He judges** (3SPAI). **Righteousness** is the manner in which **He judges** the Antichrist and his armies. First, Jesus reaches a verdict regarding the beast and his armies and then He **wages war** with him (for further study see Ezek 1:1; John 1:51; Rev 4:1; Ps 96:13; Isa 64:1-2; Isa 11:3-4).

The Rider's Appearance (19:12-13)

Revelation 19:12 And His eyes [are like] a flame of fire, and upon His head many crowns, having (PAPart) a name (a name presently inscribed upon Him) having been written (PerfPPart) (the name was inscribed sometime in the past and remains as an eternal inscription) that no one has known (3SPerfAI) (access to this name is impossible until this point when access is granted) **if not Him,**

The description is no doubt of Christ. **His eyes [are like] a flame of fire.** That description comes from Rev 1:14. They are the eyes of judgment that cast light on all His

enemies that gather against Him. **And upon His head** He has **many crowns**. These are *diadema* crowns, Royal crowns signifying regal authority (also cf Rev 6:2; 12:3). They are not victory crowns. And He has **a name that has been written** upon Him. We don't know where the name is inscribed on Him nor what the name is. Some have suggested that the name here is King of kings and Lord of lords and is inscribed on His garment and His thigh as in verse 16 but it is more likely that the **name** here is completely unknown to humans until the day of His Second Coming. The perfect passive participle indicates that the name was inscribed on Him in the past and by someone else, namely the Father. Thus, the only one who knows this name before the day of the Second Coming is God. Rev 3:12 promises the overcomer that the name of God, the name of the new Jerusalem and Christ's new name will be inscribed on him. It is unclear whether this unknown name is the same as Christ's new name.

Revelation 19:13 and He had clothed Himself (PerfMPart) (He clothed Himself sometime in the past with this garment and He continues to wear it to this point) **[with] a garment having been dipped (PerfPPart)** The perfect passive participles indicate that the **garment** He has put on for this day has already been dipped in blood, probably from past conflicts with the enemies of Israel, when God intervened on their behalf for His own purposes and reputation. Such instances in the Bible are known as Holy War or YHWH war. The Battle of Harmageddon is another such instance of Holy War. Holy War always results in total annihilation of God's enemies. So, in preparation for this great day of battle, Jesus Christ has pulled out His bloody garments and **clothed Himself** with them. This is like going out and working in the yard. Since you know you are going to get dirty you put on old work clothes. You don't put on your Sunday suit and so, Jesus Christ is going to war and so He has put on His war clothes. **and His name was called (3SPerfPI) the word of God (John 1:1)**. Here's a known **name** of Christ. The perfect tense indicates it's a **name** that He has been **called** before and the name is **the word of God**. Now, this name reminds us of John 1:1, "In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God" and that's where John is drawing this name from. Now, Jehovah's Witnesses say that John 1:1 does not teach that Jesus was God but only that He was "a god" or "a divine" and they argue this on the basis that the Greek text does not say He is "the God". So, they argue from the absence of the definite article "the" before "God". And while that is a fallacious argument here the definite is included. Literally it says **His name was called the word of the God**. So, Jehovah's Witnesses have no excuse for denying the deity of Christ. Indeed, the perfect tense indicates that He has been called this and He is to be called this. He is **the word of God**, the full expression of deity in human form (John 1:14).

Christ's Army in Heaven (19:14)

Revelation 19:14 And the soldiers [that are] in heaven were following (3IAI) Him.

Now, **the armies** here is better translated **the soldiers**. And **the soldiers** apparel tips us off as to who they are. They wear **fine, white, and clean linen** just like the bride of Christ in verse 9. So, the **soldiers in heaven** are the Church saints. And their action is one of **following Him**. The verb **were following** is imperfect voice and means that we have been following Him around ever since we arrived in heaven at the pre-trib Rapture. The word **following** is *akolutho* and is one of the words for a “follower” or “disciple” or “learner” of Jesus Christ. On earth we are supposed to be His disciples. To be His disciple you must follow His teachings wherever they lead, even if they contradict your previous beliefs. In heaven we will follow the Lamb wherever He goes. When He suits up for battle in blood-dipped garments and mounts His white horse, we will follow Him by mounting white horses (cherubs) having already put on our wedding apparel. The only difference, of course, is that His garments are already dipped in blood and ours are **fine, white, and clean**. This difference looks forward to the fact that we will not do any of the fighting. Only He is in warrior apparel, we are dressed in wedding apparel. He is a one-man army. Now, the **white horses** we will have mounted by this time are also cherubs. So, we will follow Him in His descent on cherubs that resemble horses.

Revelation 19:15 And out of His mouth came (3SPMI) (it now came) a sharp sword (romphaia). It now came, at this point, on the day of the Second Coming, **out of His mouth a sharp sword**. The Greek word for **sword** here is *romphaia*, a Thracian sword which was a large, broad bladed sword, shaped like a tongue and sharpened on both edges. The advantage of a two-edged sword was that the warrior could strike his enemy from both directions. The word of God is likened to a two-edged sword in Heb 4:12. And that is precisely what we have here. The sharp sword coming out of His mouth is the word of God. The word of God has three powers; creative power used to create the entire universe (Gen 1), salvation power which is able to save through the gospel message (Rom 1:17), and judgment power able to spiritually judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart or physically judge by execution. 2 Thess 2:8 describes Christ slaying the Antichrist by the breath of His mouth. All the weapons the world can muster are no match for the word of God. So, here we hardly have the picture of a meek and mild Jesus but of a Warrior-King. He first came “*To bring good news to the afflicted*”; but when He comes again it will be “*the day of vengeance of our God*;” (Isaiah 61:1-2). The purpose of the weapon is **that with it He may strike (3SAAS) the nations**. The aorist **may strike** is an urgent aorist signaling a sudden strike on **the nations**. The word **strike**, *potasso*, is used of a beat of the heart. The **strike** will come like the beat of a heart, very

sudden and very quick. The sudden transition from the gathered armies of verse 19 to the strike of verse 20 is indicative of the suddenness of the strike. **the nations** are, of course, the armies of the Antichrist who gather at Harmageddon against Him. **and He will rule (3SFAD)**, this is a future tense looking forward to His kingdom rule. So, as soon as the sudden and decisive **strike** takes place on the beast and his armies **He will rule them with an iron rod**. In His kingdom rule there will be no tolerance of evil. Judgment will be swift in the kingdom and in accordance with His perfect righteousness and justice in order to maintain peace on earth and good will toward men. In order to bring in such an order **He tramples (3SPAD)**, that is, on the day of the Second Coming **He tramples the wine press of the wine of the anger of the wrath of God the Almighty**. The picture is that of treading grapes except Christ is not treading grapes but rebellious humans whose blood spews like wine from grapes. In one of the most brilliant military maneuvers ever, Christ's enemies have been gathered all in one place, Harmageddon, the hill country of Megiddo. And the enemy, Christ and His soldiers have the high ground in heaven from which to descend. So, Christ will be able to strike with lightning quick speed and destroy all His enemies at once. Thus, when the cup of His anger has reached its full He will descend and there will come the greatest display of **the wrath of God the Almighty** the world has ever known. Not one who has gathered against Him will survive. The description of this bloody destruction described in Isa 63 is sobering.

Isaiah 63:1-6 Who is this who comes from Edom, With garments of glowing colors from Bozrah, This One who is majestic in His apparel, Marching in the greatness of His strength? "It is I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save." 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. ⁴ "For the day of vengeance was in My heart, And My year of redemption has come. ⁵ "I looked, and there was no one to help, And I was astonished and there was no one to uphold; So My own arm brought salvation to Me, And My wrath upheld Me. 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."

Revelation 19:16 and He has **(3SPAD)** upon the garment and upon the His leg a name written **(PerfPPart)**. The perfect passive participle indicates that this name was inscribed upon Christ's blood dipped garments and **upon His leg** by someone else, most likely God the Father, and they remain there as eternal inscriptions. And the inscription reads "**King of kings and Lord of lords**". The repetition of each ascription is meant to

exalt Him as the supreme King and Lord to whom all kings and lords must answer. This is an ascription of His regal sovereignty. He is Christ the King and Christ the Lord.

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