

## The Conquest by Him Who Is Faithful and True (Revelation 19:11–21)

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### Introduction

1. The contrast of chapters 18 and 19 can be summed up in two phrases: “*alas, alas*” (by earth’s citizens) and “*hallelujahs*” (by heaven’s citizens).
2. The single focus of these chapters is the Lord’s righteous judgment in the midst of spiritual warfare.
3. Chapter 19 contains the fourth of seven beatitudes.
4. There are seven rapid-fire visions from 19:11 through 21:1 (each prefaced with “*I saw*”).
5. After the celebration of the fall of Babylon and the announcement of the marriage of Lamb (vv. 1–10), John is given a vision of the victorious Christ (vv. 11–16).
6. Verse 10 transitions to this next section.
  - a. John is overwhelmed by the glorious scenes and the great words of the angel. He falls into the thinking that we all must be careful to avoid—that these things are *for us*.
  - b. The angel’s caution to John is this: “*Worship God.*” We are to worship God, not the things He does for us. Saints and angels are but partners in the one task of making Jesus known in the earth; that is *prophecy*.
  - c. The *testimony* is either *from* or *about* Jesus; either way, the meaning is the same—it is all about *Jesus*. It is not about us.
7. Here is the great victory of the Son of God.

### I. His Description

1. Look! A white horse with a rider—the Divine Warrior (v. 11)—as compared to the Lamb slain (5:6).
  - a. White is the color of ceremonial purity—holiness. White is the color of righteousness—the dress of those with a right standing before God. In Revelation white also speaks of vindication through judgment (vv. 7, 8; see also 14:14 and 20:11).
  - b. The rider’s name is Faithful and True, keeping all His promises, both judging the wicked and vindicating the trust that His servants have invested in Him. His standard by which He earns His name is *righteousness*—that which meets and exceeds every-thing that qualifies something as upright and true. By this standard He judges and makes war (Acts 17:31).
2. The Warrior’s appearance (vv. 12, 13)
  - a. His eyes are a flame of fire, speaking of His perfect ability to observe and discern what He sees (1:14; 2:18–23; Dan. 10:6). The “sharp sword” (v. 15) supports His use of what He sees to judge, judging with His words (1:16; 2:12).
  - b. He wears many diadems, speaking of His sovereign rule—a true sovereignty as opposed to Satan’s limited, usurped, and false claims (2:26–28).

- c. His also has a *secret name*, suggesting that the Warrior's work is not yet finished and that the secret name will be revealed only when the "new" comes in (Isa. 62:2, 3).
- d. His red-stained clothing reveals the continuing success of His warfare.
- e. He has a second open name, "*the Word of God*," speaking of the means by which He conducts the war.

## **II. His Warfare**

1. The heavenly Warrior has an army that follows him, dressed in fine linen, pure and white (note v. 8). These are his saints who are now following and serving Him.
2. His warfare is based on four OT texts:
  - a. Isaiah 49:2—a sharp sword from His mouth
  - b. Isaiah 11:1—smiting the nations
  - c. Psalm 2:9—ruling the nations with His rod
  - d. Isaiah 63:2–6—His final act of judgment
3. A third open name is given—a name written on His robe and thigh: "King of kings, and Lord of lords." This is a clear and public name to be heralded in all places.
4. What we must understand is that this war is currently in progress and will continue until the end, "*For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet*" (1 Cor. 15:25).

## **III. His Victory**

1. The full and final victory is assured as declared by the angel's invitation to the birds to eat the flesh of the fallen enemies of God (vv. 17, 18).
2. The kings of the earth and the beast-system are set to wage war on the Christ and His churches (v. 19).
3. The defeat of the beast is outlined in vv. 20 and 21.

## **Application**

1. The Revelation assures the saints that the patience and persistence of obedient faith will be fully rewarded by Christ. Satan's evil empire is finished.
2. We are at war, and the Word of God is our sole weapon of warfare. Preaching the gospel faithfully and truthfully is our business. We must not compromise or adjust the faith to compensate for its apparent offensiveness in our modern culture. The elect will believe it, and the rest will reject it.