

RIDING WITH CHRIST THE CONQUEROR

Rev 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.

Most of the Apostles described what the Lord Jesus did while on earth. John, however, is one of the few who describes scenes of Christ in heaven. After sharing about the glory of the Lord in heaven, he must have been overwhelmed with joy and awe when he suddenly saw heaven opened and realized the Lord was on the way to the earth once again. The first thing he sees is the Lord mounted on a white horse. A white horse signified a war for peace. The time had come for the Lord Jesus to establish his peace upon the earth for a thousand years. It is interesting that the Lord's last title in Isaiah 9:6 is "Prince of peace". "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Consider that there are over 32 wars raging in the world right now – these range from drug wars, terrorist insurgencies, ethnic conflicts, and civil wars. When the Lord returns, the entire world will be itching for a war with him under the antichrist, but the Lord, mounted on a white horse, will enforce his peace. How many truly long for the peace of Jesus?

Next, a white horse signifies speed. The Lord's salvation took time; Israel had to prepare for several centuries through the Law, the Temple and prophets, among others, but his return happens with lightning speed. "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:27). The lightning speed-like return of the Lord will be a fulfilment of the constant prayers of generations who say "Maranatha, Jesus" or come quickly Jesus. The first time the Lord rode on a donkey on the way to the Temple in Jerusalem. As a donkey is slow, salvation is to be considered carefully and given much time. The return of the Lord is upon a white horse, however, because the Lord has already given over two thousand years for the world to consider his salvation and his return. "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (I Cor 15:52). Jesus, who sits on the white horse, is called faithful and true. Jesus is faithful to his promises. He has not forgotten any of his own words. He is true to himself. Imagine the collective gasp of the unsaved world when they see the Lord and exclaim, "Oh my God, he really has returned!" John goes on to declare, "...in righteousness he doth judge and make war". Rest assured! There never was a more just or righteous war than this war.

This will be the last war in the history of nations. Forget Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, Napoleon and others. Jesus is the ultimate conqueror because with one word, the sword that goes out of his mouth, he will destroy the armies of the entire world at once. No conqueror has ever done this before.

***Rev 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.*

John continues to describe this ultimate conqueror, “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” (Rev 19:12). A person’s eyes are the windows to his or her soul. The Lord Jesus’ eyes burn with the passion of his soul – the passion to save and restore righteousness through his name. “And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up” (John 2:17). Do not doubt the zeal of the Lord to fulfill his word. In addition, the Lord has many crowns upon his head. King of Salem, King of righteousness, King of the world, King of Kings, King of love – the list goes on and on. None of the kingdoms of the earth gave the Lord a crown, but the Church in heaven has bestowed some crowns on his head, Hallelujah! To know the name of a person is to know his secrets, power, identity etc. No one knew the name written on Jesus because no one will ever have power over him. Let us be happy with the name Jesus which has been given to us for our salvation and blessing.

***Romans 11:33** O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!*

Next, John writes, “And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God” (Rev 19:13). The Lord’s blood was not for the redemption of the nations anymore – but to require his blood at their hands. It is not enough to declare as Pilate did: “When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it” (Matthew 27:24). We must repent, be baptized in Jesus name and receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38) if we want to be guiltless of the blood of Jesus. The Lord returns with a blood-soaked garment because everyone must give an account of his blood which he shed on the Cross for our sins. As Paul writes, “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him” (Hebrews 2:3).

Rev 19:14 *And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.*

This part makes me very excited. I have never ridden a horse before but prepare to ride white horses behind the Lord Jesus. Prepare for war alongside Jesus! Glory to his name! Notice that John wrote “the armies” and not just an army. This is the greatest invasion in the history of the world – and we Christians will play a big role in it, thanks to the Lord. Who would not like to sit on a white horse just behind the Lord Jesus? The Lord doesn’t need our help but he bestows this great honor on us. “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us” (Romans 8:37). I would be happy to have the lowest rank in the army of the Lord Jesus than to have the highest title in the armies of this world! I have preached about the white linen garments years ago. They symbolize the heavenly body of the Lord Jesus Christ. Linen was the material God commanded the high priest to wear after he washed his body and entered the holy place in the Tabernacle and subsequent Temple.

Leviticus 16:4 *He shall put on the holy linen coat, and he shall have the linen breeches upon his flesh, and shall be girded with a linen girdle, and with the linen mitre shall he be attired: these are holy garments; therefore shall he wash his flesh in water, and so put them on.*

This proves our sonship in Jesus. As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ indeed (Gal 3:27). We are now made kings and priests unto the Lord. “And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen” (Rev 1:6). We are not destined for defeat, saints of the Lord! We have just read about our glorious destiny. We have a calling – to be part of the armies of the Lord Jesus when he returns. See how good the Lord is! He knows how sin, the Devil and the world has tormented our faith, so he invites us to return with him enlisted as heavenly soldiers to cleanse the world of all the forces that sought to destroy the Lord and our faith. “Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me” (Micah 7:8). What a glorious future awaits us! John was in Patmos. It must have appeared very dreadful and depressing but now he saw the Lord and his armies returning and conquering the world. He could return to his captivity with a smile and renewed joy knowing the true story of the end of the world. Praise the Lord Jesus!