



Part 21: The Final Battle
Revelation 19:11-21, 20:7-10

HOW LONG O LORD

“When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, ‘How long, Sovereign God, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?’” Revelation 6:9-10

How long until you make all things right and new? How long until the great Day of the Lord?

“Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.” Revelation 6:11

THE BRIDEGROOM IS A WARRIOR-KING

Last week we celebrated the vision of the great wedding feast of the Lamb (19:6-8). But something must still be done to overthrow evil.

Before Jesus can take us into eternity, He must destroy all our enemies. John sees heaven open with Jesus the warrior king on a white horse.

“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called faithful and true.” Revelation 19:11

In the ancient world, a white horse was the symbol of war. In the first century, when a King rode a white horse, he was riding to war. If he rode a donkey, he was riding to peace. The time of God’s mercy and grace has now ended. The time for God’s judgment is at hand, executed by the Son of God as the Warrior-King.

- **Jesus' Description**

Faithful and True

Earlier John described Jesus as the “faithful witness” (1:5). Jesus is the ultimate witness to God.

Eyes like blazing fire

Nothing can escape His penetrating gaze; no evil can hide from Him.

“The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord is on his heavenly throne. He observes the sons of man; his eyes examine them.” Psalm 11:4

A Name no one knows

Jesus is unlike any other Roman-Greco god. He cannot be manipulated or controlled by anyone (as thought in paganism if you knew the god's name).

Dressed in a robe dipped in blood

This most likely has a double meaning. The first is a reference to Isaiah 63:1-6. In Isaiah, the blood of God's garments is the blood of those judged by God (more later).

Word of God

Jesus is God's fullest and final speech. He is the fullest and final Revelation of God.

King of Kings and Lord of Lords

Jesus has no equals or rivals.

- **Jesus' Power**

“Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. ... He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.” Revelation 19:15

- **Judgment on God's Enemies (19:17-21, 20:7-10)**

All of God's enemies are now finally defeated in a single moment by King Jesus. They are thrown into “the fiery lake of burning sulfur” (19:20-21, 20:10).

“And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” Revelation 20:10

THE FINAL BATTLE IS COMPLETION OF THE VICTORY OF THE CROSS

Notice that Jesus arrives to the final battle with his robes already dipped in blood and the armies of heaven dressed in fine linen, white and clean (19:13-14).

“He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood ... The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.” Revelation 19:13-14

Q – Where has the blood come from? Whose blood is on his robes? It is Jesus’ own blood, as he bore God’s wrath on the cross for rebellious sinners!

See Colossians 2:13-15. The Final battle is simply the final execution of God’s great salvation which started at the cross.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stands out to you the most about the way Jesus is described? What else in this passage do you notice?
- How do you relate to the cry for God’s justice to finally come on the earth? How do you respond to the language used to describe God’s final judgment of His enemies? Why do you think this is challenging for our modern sensibilities?
- As you wait on this great Day, what is your greatest grief or fear?
- How does this promise of Jesus’ return encourage or refine your hope? What can you do to keep this hope more present to you?