

Jesus, the Bridegroom King: Waging a War (Rev. 19:11-21)

I. THE BEAUTY OF JESUS AT THE SECOND COMING

- A. Revelation 19 gives us more detail about the beauty of Jesus as our Bridegroom King than any other passage. This is the final revelation of Jesus in the Bible. It is a gold mine of revelation of the beauty of Jesus. John recorded only the briefest statement of the vision that he saw. Each phrase is so significant and is but a “hint” that we are to search out more by using the rest of the Bible to get a more complete picture of what the Spirit is saying about Jesus.
- B. John connects the revelation of Jesus as the Bridegroom King to the final battle of natural history over Jerusalem and to Jesus ruling the earth in partnership with the Bride (Rev. 19:14). The context is Jesus making His royal procession into Jerusalem. John sees Jesus on a white horse, outside Jerusalem, just before He destroys the Antichrist and all the armies of the earth that will join him. The Jewish people will receive Jesus as their Messianic King, and then He will set up His throne in Jerusalem. All nations will witness this great drama described by John.
- C. This will be the greatest day in natural history for believers. The triumph of the cross and resurrection is not currently being fully displayed for all on the earth to see. All of these events will happen in a very short period of time—even one day, called the Day of the Lord. The greatest change in all history will occur on this one day and the nations will be radically changed. It will be the most violent day in history and the day of the greatest manifestation of justice.
- D. We lose much if we neglect the truths of this great chapter. In it we see Jesus’ personality and beauty; we see how far Jesus is willing to go for the sake of love and how committed He is to justice. The nations will be blaspheming God, walking in wickedness, deceiving the people, and killing the saints. In this context, the beauty of the Lord will be revealed in its greatest intensity.
- E. Jesus’ beauty will be manifested in great measure to all the nations at His second coming. As we meditate on what He will do at that time, we are able to see His personality behind the events.
- ²In that day the Branch of the LORD [Jesus] shall be beautiful and glorious. (Isa. 4:2)*
- ¹⁷Your eyes will see the King in His beauty... (Isa. 33:17)*
- F. In His activity at the Armageddon campaign (Ps. 45:2-4; Rev. 19:11-21, Jesus will be seen as the One fairer, or more beautiful, than all others. The Father proclaimed Jesus’ beauty (Ps. 45:17; Heb. 1:8). The Spirit is emphasizing this theme to God’s people today.
- ²You are fairer [more beautiful] than the sons of men; grace [power] is poured upon Your lips...³Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, with Your glory and Your majesty. ⁴In Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness... (Ps. 45:2-4)*
- G. In all that Jesus does He combines love (goodwill and partnership), wisdom (skillful planning), tenderness (mercy), zeal (determination), power (victory), and justice for the oppressed.

- H. In Revelation 19:11-21, the Spirit highlights twelve aspects of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The whole of Scripture gives many more details, developing a fuller picture. *Out of all the details that could have been emphasized, the Spirit intentionally emphasized these.* Understanding these facets of Jesus' glory strengthens our hearts as worshipers of Jesus and helps us to interpret the violence that Jesus will orchestrate in the context of His love and beauty.
2. The Holy Spirit highlights eight aspects of Jesus' activity in Rev. 19:11-16:
His mode of travel (v. 11): On a white horse, in a military context as the conquering King
His character (v. 11-12): He is faithful, true, righteous, and zealous in love
His actions (v. 11, 15): He judges, makes war, strikes the nations with a sword, rules them with a rod of iron, and treads the winepress of God's wrath
His eyes (v. 12): Emphasize His zealous love and His perfect knowledge of all the details
His crowns (v. 12): Express His past and future victories as a skillful ruler
His names (v. 12, 13, 16): The unknown name, the Word of God, and King of kings
His robe (v. 13, 16): Blood on His robe is connected to His name—King of kings
His armies (v. 14): Armies with Him—shows His desire for partnership with His people
 3. The Holy Spirit highlights four aspects of Jesus' activity in (19:17-21)
Birds will be gathered: Jesus has power over all creation, even the birds (19:17-18)
Kings of earth will gather with armies: Hostility against Jesus and army is global (19:19)
Antichrist will be defeated: Before all nations, assuring us of permanent victory (19:20)
Birds will clean up: Jesus attends to every detail, even the clean-up of the dead (19:21).
- A. **The battle of Jerusalem**: All the nations will gather against Jerusalem (Joel 3:2, 12; Zech. 12:3; 14:2; Zeph. 3:8; Ezek. 38:4; 39:2; Rev. 16:14). God's end-time plan is "Jerusalem-centric."

II. THE SCENE AROUND JERUSALEM AT JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY (REV. 19:11-21)

- A. John describes Jesus entering the battle scene just outside Jerusalem (Rev. 19:11-21). Isaiah and the other prophets make it clear that Jesus marches to Jerusalem from Edom—modern-day Jordan (Isa. 62:1-63:6; Joel 3:2, 12; Zech. 12:3; 14:2; Zeph. 3:8; Ezek. 38:4; 39:2; Rev. 16:14). **Jesus will trample the nations as one treads grapes in a winepress** (Joel 3:13; Rev. 14:20; 19:15). Jesus is pictured marching through the wilderness to lead people to the land of Israel as in the days of Moses (Deut. 33:2-5; Judg. 5:4-5; Ps. 68:7-9, also Isa. 63:1-6; 34:6-8; Hab. 3:12-13; Mic. 2:12-13; Ps. 45:3-5; 68:24, 29-33; 110:5-6; Zech. 9:14; Num. 24:17-19; Rev. 19:11-21).
¹Who is this who comes from Edom [Jordan]...this One [Jesus] who is glorious...traveling in the greatness of His strength?...²Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? ³"I have trodden the winepress...and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes." (Isa. 63:1-3)
- B. The last chronological event to occur in the storyline of Revelation before this great battle is the seventh bowl (Rev. 16:21), which is soon after the rapture of the Church, at the last trumpet (Rev. 11:15). An angelic explanation (Rev. 17:1-19:10) describes the destruction of Babylon at the seventh bowl (Rev. 16:19), the marriage supper, and the saints being rewarded (Rev. 19:7).

- C. John saw Jesus traveling to Jerusalem for the final battle in natural history (Rev. 19:19-21).
¹¹Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. (Rev. 19:11)
2. **Heaven open:** The phrase “heaven opened” describes John having a new vision. This starts a new section, and indicates that John’s information came from a heavenly vision. John does not see Jesus in the sky on a horse but on the earth marching to Jerusalem.
 3. **White horse:** Jesus will make His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a white horse, as the conquering King, in the context of a military conflict. White speaks of victory and purity. There are real horses in the heavenly realm. Elijah, Elisha, and Zechariah saw horses with heavenly chariots (2 Kgs. 2:11; 6:17; Zech. 6:1-5). The saints will ride horses (v. 14).
 4. **He judges:** He will intervene with judgment in order to put things right. His judgments include establishing new leaders, laws, and policies that will help the poor (Isa. 11:4).
⁴With righteousness He shall judge the poor...He shall strike the earth... (Isa. 11:4)
 5. **He makes war:** The most extreme judgment in history will occur in the largest, most violent battle in history. Jesus will restore order by destroying wicked governments. The Antichrist will be the most powerful and cruel military leader in history. God has promised to destroy the Antichrist (Dan. 7:11-12, 26-27; 8:25; 9:27; 11:45). John describes this war as an annihilation of the armies who will take the mark of the Beast and be committed to perpetrating evil. The battle will continue until every king is killed, so that Jesus can establish righteous, new governments in every nation of the earth.
 6. **Faithful and true:** He is faithful to fulfill His promises and true to His loving nature in all that He does. Even in battle, Jesus will be faithful to love and justice, and will do everything according to truth. He never violates justice—not even when dealing with Satan and the Antichrist.
- A. John sees Jesus’ eyes, His many crowns, and His mysterious name (Rev. 19:12).
¹²His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. (Rev. 19:12)
7. **Eyes of fire:** His eyes speak of His zealous love and perfect knowledge. His eyes of fire speak of His burning heart of desire for His people. His eyes are on fire because His heart is on fire. This reveals His motive and how He feels about what He is doing. It is the assurance of His love, tenderness, and passion for His people. He is moved by love in all that He does. He has perfect insight, seeing behind every plan and façade of evil men.
 8. **Many crowns:** His crowns speak of His past and future victories and successful leadership. Jesus’ proven leadership is seen in His many crowns. This is not Jesus’ first battle. He is not a novice. He is skilled at war and at gaining the victory.

9. **A name no one knows:** Some aspects of His personality and activity will be totally unexpected. Facets of His name (v. 12, 13, 16) will be revealed at the battle of Jerusalem. He will do things on that Day that will surprise everyone. No one fully understands His plans. His people will never exhaust the understanding of His majesty, even in eternity.
- A. Jesus' robe is stained with the blood of His enemies as He fulfills God's Word (Rev. 19:13).
¹³*He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called the Word of God. (19:13)*
10. **Dipped in blood:** His robe (long outer garment) will be splattered with the blood of His enemies. Jesus has many types of garments, as seen in the elaborate garments that God commanded for the high priest (Ex. 28). The word *dipped* comes from the Greek word *baptô*, from which we get *baptize*. His robes will be stained with a significant amount of blood on His march from Edom to Jerusalem (Isa. 63:3). This tells us that Jesus will be up close and personal in the battle and that He will not be ashamed of shedding blood in the process of delivering His people and the nations from evil (Rev. 19:2).
Their blood is sprinkled on My garments, and I have stained all My robes. (Isa. 63:3)
11. **Word of God:** All that Jesus does in the battle of Jerusalem is true to Scripture. His goals, motives, and attitudes in this great battle will be totally consistent with Scripture. His name—"the Word of God"—emphasizes that the blood on Jesus' robe will be in fulfillment of Scripture. He promised to fill the earth with justice through this battle.
- A. Jesus will desire partnership with His people, even as He takes over the nations (Rev. 19:14).
¹⁴*The armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. (Rev. 19:14)*
12. **Armies followed Him:** Jesus will enter Jerusalem with a vast army of angels and resurrected saints (Zech. 14:5; 1 Thes. 3:13; 4:13-17; Rev. 17:14). The Bride will appear with Jesus on the world stage for the first time in His royal procession into Jerusalem. *The saints are called His army because they will participate in the battle; they will ride on white horses, which speaks of the military conflict that gains the victory in purity.*
²⁴*Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory... (Jn. 17:24)*
13. **White and clean:** *White* speaks of bright (Rev. 19: 8) clothing, having the supernatural qualities of God's glory and light (Ps. 104:2; Mt. 17:2). *Clean* speaks of purity. The love and purity that the Bride will walk in will be apparent in her garments. Raptured believers will be evaluated and rewarded when Jesus returns (Mt. 16:27; Rev. 11:18; 22:12).
⁸*...clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (Rev. 19:8)*
- A. Our garments will express the righteousness that is worked into our lives as we obey the Lord in this age. We will have differing measures of the glory of God, which will be apparent in our garments (1 Cor. 15:41-42). Each one's garments will be related to their dedication in this age.

- B. Jesus' actions in judging the nations include striking them with the sword of His mouth, ruling them with a rod of iron, and treading the winepress of God's wrath (Rev. 19:15).
- ¹⁵*Out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should **strike the nations**. He Himself will rule them with a **rod of iron**. He Himself **treads the winepress of...wrath...** (Rev. 19:15)*
14. **Strikes the nations:** By the decree of His mouth His end-time judgments will be released.
- ⁴*He shall strike the earth with the **rod of His mouth**, and with the **breath of His lips** He shall slay the wicked. (Isa. 11:4)*
15. **Rules with a rod of iron:** Jesus' rule over the nations will include dashing them to pieces.
- ⁹*You shall **break them** with a rod of iron; You shall **dash them** to pieces... (Ps. 2:9)*
- A. **Treads the winepress of wrath:** The winepress is described in verses 19-21, where Jesus transitions all governments of the earth in one great event. After this battle, all the leaders and armies of the nations will be killed (Rev. 19:21; Ps. 110:5-6; Isa. 24:6, 21-21; 66:24).
- ²¹*The **rest** [all the kings] were killed with the sword...from the mouth of Him... (Rev. 19:21)*
- ⁵*He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. ⁶He shall judge among the nations, **He shall fill the places with dead bodies**, He shall execute the heads of many countries. (Ps. 110:5-6)*
16. It will be the only time in history when all the kings of the earth are in the same city at the same time. It is called God's winepress of wrath because Jesus will trample the armies of all the nations like grapes (Isa. 63:2-4; Joel 3:13; Rev. 14:19-20; 19:15).
- ³*I have **trodden the winepress**...trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. (Isa. 63:3)*
17. Blood will flow for 200 miles (Rev. 14:20). It will take seven months to bury the bones of the dead (Ezek. 39:11-16), and seven years to burn the weapons (Ezek. 39:9).
- ²⁰*The **winepress** was trampled outside the city, and **blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for 1,600 furlongs** [nearly 200 miles]. (Rev. 14:20)*
- ²²*I will **rain down** on him [the Antichrist], on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, **flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone**. (Ezek. 38:22)*
- A. All nations on earth will see that Jesus is the King of kings (Rev. 19:16). He will take over everything forever, for the glory of God and the good of His people.
- ¹⁶*He has on His robe and on His thigh a **name** written: **KING OF KINGS**... (Rev. 19:16)*
- B. Jesus is the "greater Moses" as He frees the captives of Israel from prison camps ([Isa. 11:11-12](#), [16](#); [27:13](#); [Hos. 11:11](#); [Zech. 10:10-11](#)). He is the "greater Joshua" when He leads Israelite refugees in the nations to the Promised Land, and the "greater David" when He wins back Jerusalem and establishes His throne and tabernacle there! He will come as the "greater Elijah" to confront the Antichrist, cleanse the earth of idolatry, and turn Israel and the nations to God.

III. THE SPIRIT HIGHLIGHTS FOUR ASPECTS OF JESUS' ACTIVITY (REV. 19:17-21)

- A. Jesus will gather the birds for a great supper, to feast on the Antichrist's army (Rev. 19:17-18). Jesus has power over all creation, even the birds (19:17-18)

¹⁷I saw an angel...saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather for the supper of the great God, ¹⁸that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses...and the flesh of all people..." (Rev. 19:17-18)

2. All the birds: There will be a supernatural gathering of birds. (Experts estimate that there are over 200 billion birds on the earth). These birds will clean up the carnage of the dead armies (Rev. 19:21) to prevent disease spreading in Israel at the start of the Millennium.

3. The supper: Ezekiel's prophecy calls this supper "God's meal" (Ezek. 39:17-29). They will feast on the bodies of the soldiers killed in the battle (v. 21). God's supper for the birds is in stark contrast to the wedding feast (Rev. 19:7-9), but both are expressions of the same reality concerning the replacement of all the wicked governments on the earth.

¹⁷Speak to every sort of bird... "Assemble yourselves...to My sacrificial meal...on the mountains of Israel, that...¹⁸you shall eat the flesh of the mighty, drink the blood of the princes...²⁰You shall be filled at My table...with all the men of war"... (Ezek. 39:17-20)

- A. All kings will be gathered with their armies (Rev. 19:19; Joel 3:2, 12; Zech. 14:2; Zeph. 3:8). This shows the global scope of the hostility, and shows why Jesus' violent action is necessary.

¹⁹And I saw the beast [Antichrist], the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him [Jesus] who sat on the horse and against His army. (Rev. 19:19)

- B. The Antichrist's defeat, in the sight of all nations, assures us of victory (Rev. 19:20).

²⁰Then the beast [Antichrist] was captured, and with him the false prophet... (Rev. 19:20)

⁸Lawless one...whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth. (2 Thes. 2:8)

- C. Jesus attends to every detail, even the clean-up of the dead (Rev. 19:21). All the kings and their armies will be killed (Ps. 110:5-6; Isa. 24:6, 21-21; 66:24).

²¹And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh. (Rev. 19:21)

- D. The leaders of Jerusalem will receive Jesus, a Jewish man, as their Messianic King. Jesus will establish His throne in Jerusalem (Mt. 19:28; 25:31; Jer. 3:17). Then He will transition the earth to the millennial kingdom, as Israel and all the nations on the earth are born anew on one day.

⁷Lift up your heads, O you gates [Jerusalem]...And the King of glory shall come in. ⁸Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle... (Ps. 24:7-8)

⁸Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, she gave birth to her children. (Isa. 66:8)

