



# Citadel Of Faith Covenant Church

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ALPHA AND OMEGA

What does the book of Revelation mean to you? Think about it. How do the Biblical claims of Jesus stack up to the arrogance of secular humanism, which prevails in our world today? Well, these questions and many more have entered my own mind as I've waited on the promise of God to finally be fulfilled. Although my anxiousness pales in comparison to the multitude of the martyrs, both throughout the ages and specifically during the Great Tribulation, it's nonetheless just as sincere. To see Christians continuing to undergo suffering and cynical ridicule makes me long for vindication. Well, not only do we hear the halleluiah chorus emanating from heaven, as we discussed last lesson, we see the warrior king descending from the lofty splendor of heaven to the evil chaos on earth. This is where we turn our attention as we look at Revelation 19:11. We notice that John sees heaven standing open. The last time we saw heaven opened was when we saw it in Revelation 4:1, when he was invited up to see the sights and sounds of heaven. The difference is that this time heaven was opened so that Jesus would come down to the earth. The first glimpse that John sees in this opened heaven is a white horse with a rider on it and the riders' name is Faithful and True. These names are not accidental, but stated to draw a stark contrast between the lying and deceptive Beast and False Prophet. Then we see that it's with justice he judges and wages war. How could a "loving God" allow there to be war waged on the earth? Well, this war is just and it is judgment. Let's look at the larger context of what this all means. The world cynically questions the veracity of God because He will execute judgment over those who do not accept Jesus as their savior. Hell is the destination for those who are not followers of Jesus and this is not because He does not love nor is love itself, it's because Jesus is a just judge who wages warfare that is just in it's motivation. Verse twelve shows His appearance. His eyes are like a blazing fire. No one will escape His all seeing gaze. But part b of verse 12 says that on His head are many crowns. Unlike the previous rider we saw in Revelation 6:2, the deceptive rider who rode that horse had a "bow and a crown" but set out to conquer the world and the outcome was famine and death (Rev. 6:3-8); Jesus has many crowns. He has many crowns because He is king of kings. He has multiple levels of authority and thus wears multiple diadems. We also notice that He has a name written on Him that no one knows but Himself. We don't know if this is a special relationship between the Father and Christ, or an allusion to what was mentioned in Rev. 2:17 where He will give those who know accept Jesus a new name "which no one knows but he who receives it". We share this close "secret" relationship that the Father and Christ have with names that only those within the intimate relationship of the "family" can understand.



I remember when I joined my fraternity and was introduced to our “secret shake” which helped us to identify each other wherever we are in the world. It’s amazing those who see us hide and guard the “secret shake” often look in awe at this “known” unknown! Verse 13 states that His vestment was a robe dipped in blood, and His name is the Word of God. John opens up the gospel by saying that in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. Now we see Jesus’ name is the Word of God. Let’s look at the magnitude of what this means. When we claim that we desire a deeper relationship with Jesus, this does not need to be mystical, but very practical, we need to have a deeper relationship with the Word of God. The Word of God reveals the nature and the person of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This is why our dive into the depth of the Word of God, verse by verse brings us into a closer relationship with Jesus directly.

Then we see in verse 14 that Jesus is not entering earth’s atmosphere alone. He is accompanied by the armies of heaven which followed Him also riding on white horses with their garments being fine linen white and clean. When we see the garments of the beast with purple and all the adornments that humanity could make, we see a heavenly army arrayed in fine linen that is reflective of holiness (white and clean). Remember Revelation 17:14 (read) The called and chosen and faithful refer to the resurrected, glorified, and rewarded saints who were raptured at the beginning of the seven year tribulation. These glorified saints will wage war with Christ against the beast’s army. Vs. 15 let’s us know that out of the mouth of Jesus is a sharp sword which will strike down the nations. Let’s not miss this. Jesus is the Word of God and it will be this same Word of God that will bring about the final judgment on the world. He will rule with an iron hand. Verse 16 states that on his robe and thigh are the words, king of kings and lord of lords. Lest there is any ambiguity about whether Jesus has power to bring this war and conflict to a final close, His name signifies His authority.

We then see in verse 17 an angel standing in the Sun and makes an announcement. The angel does not speak to humanity, but to the fowls of the air, “Come gather for the great supper of God”. What is this supper? Vs. 18 answers that question. The birds are asked to feast on the dead carcasses of the kings, generals and the mighty; they are told to eat the flesh of the horses and riders and the flesh of **all people , free and slave, great and small.** This means that everyone is going to be targeted for these birds to feast on their dead carcasses. I remember when the two witnesses’ bodies were left to decay in the open and the world exchanged gifts and laughed at their death; well now the world must reap what it has sown!

We then notice the beast (the Antichrist) and the kings of the earth and their armies assembling to wage war on Christ and the heavenly army. Verse twenty lets us know that the beast was captured along with the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. The two of them were thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. Then the rest of them (the kings, etc) were killed. It’s interesting to see the way in which this war was waged, it will be simple: One Word from Jesus will kill everyone else, then all the birds ate to the full on their flesh. Wow! Can you imagine such a great war ending simply with Jesus’ Word (the sword coming from His mouth). Before they could utter the word, Armageddon, the battle is over!

This should serve as a reminder to those of us who have been given the great gift of the Word of God. Let’s remember that the Word and Jesus are ONE. We must remember that the closer we get to the Word of God, we get to our precious Lord. We must also not minimize the power of God’s Word, one Word from Jesus ends the greatest war the earth has ever seen. What do you think it can do in **YOUR** mouth? Isaiah 55:11 mentions that the Word of God does not return without accomplishing what it is sent to do. Hebrews 4:12-13 (read) this scripture reminds us that the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword; piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and spirit. The more Word we know and are able to use in our lives, will cause there to be wars that are overcome not by human might or power, but by the Word.



Questions to Ponder:

1. In what ways have we seen Christ in heaven (within the book of Revelation and other places in the Bible)?
2. List as many comparisons between the beast and the one riding the horse coming from heaven (Jesus).
3. Why is there this constant “conversation” about the actions of the Lord being just? Why is the justice of God so important as a theme within the book of Revelation? (What current day application does this knowledge of God’s justice bring to us?)
4. What is the final judgment of the beast and the false prophet?
5. What is the final judgment of the kings of the earth and all those who are following them?