

We are finally closing in on the climax of the book. We have been going through the book of Revelation for much of this year. We have been wrestling with the complicated imagery. At times, it may have left you feeling confused and like there is a lot about this book that you still don't understand. But this morning, we are going to be reminded of what our entire hope in this book is. This morning, we will see everything that revelation and everything the entire Bible has been building up to and what we are looking at this morning is the return of Jesus Christ.

At Tanglewood Bible Fellowship, we are focused on the essentials of the faith. There is a lot we can disagree about Revelation over. There are plenty of places you have probably differed with me on my interpretations. That is fine. But one of the essentials that we cannot disagree about is the return of Christ. We can disagree about when and where, but all of us must agree he will come back.

This morning we will look at what we know about Christ's return. Turn in your Bible Revelation 19:11-21.

### **I. Jesus will return in glory (v. 11-13).**

The return of Jesus will be a glorious moment.

Jesus will return in the fullness of His glory.

Verse 11, **"Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war."**

The heavens split and open and Jesus appears.

It is clearly Jesus as the rest of the passage makes clear.

And He comes riding on a horse.

Because this moment happens in full glory.

The white horse is the horse of conquering.

This is the color of the horse the Roman Emperors would ride in their parades to celebrate their victories in battle and war.

Jesus is showing that He is the one who is covered in glory.

He is even greater than the emperors of Rome, Babylon, America, whatever kingdom you want to put up here.

And here we begin to get some of Jesus's names.

And we will see a lot of them just in this passage.

The first name is faithful and true.

We will call him faithful because he kept his promise to return

We will call him true all His words were right.

And we also see that part of God's glorious coming is that He comes in righteousness.

This means that Jesus comes and he is doing what is right.

And He is also coming to bring righteousness and holiness and justice into the world.

No longer will the kingdom of God slowly enter into the world and bear witness now the kingdom of God takes everything over.

And the kingdom of God will do this through two things.

He will bring the righteousness judgment.

It will be a righteous judgment that will get rid of evil.

It will get rid of sin. It will get rid of wickedness. It will get rid of the enemy, and it will not do so through underhanded tactics.

Jesus will not defeat evil through loopholes or in secret.

Jesus will pronounce a righteous judgment.

And Jesus will also make war.

Those who try to resist the coming of Jesus.

Those who try to resist the judgment of Jesus will face his might.

And they will lose.

Verse 12, **"His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself."**

We see the eyes of Jesus are like fire.

The fire that burned in the bush before Moses.

The fire that burned in the temple perpetually.

The fire that burns in the eyes of Jesus is brighter than the sun is more powerful than the strongest flame.  
His eyes are glorious.

On Christ's head are many crowns.  
How many crowns are there?  
John doesn't tell us how many because we aren't supposed to know because Jesus has all of them.  
The dragon and antichrist had ten crowns.  
Because his power and kingship are limited.  
But Christ's is unlimited.  
Christ has all the crowns.

We also get this phrase that He has a name that no one knows.  
We know His name is Jesus.  
We know His name is Christ.  
We know His name is true and faithful.  
We know His name is Immanuel, God with us.  
We know His name is the Lamb of God and the bridegroom  
We know His name is the King of Kings in the Lord of Lord's  
And His name is much more  
But there is a name he has that we do not know.  
There is a reason that we do not know this name.

In the ancient world to know someone's name carried the idea of having power over them.  
That might seem strange to us, but on a simpler level, we know that to know somebody's name is to understand something about them.  
It's hard for me to know you if I don't know what your name is.  
Well, we need to see in God's word that we don't even know God's name.  
He has a lot of names and they are all true but they're just what we see on the surface.

Remember when Moses asked God for his name.

He says my name is I am.

That's not God's only name that's probably not his deepest name.

Jesus will come in all of his glory in there still is stuff about him we don't know.

This should fill us with wonder and make us just want to bask in the glory of Jesus.

Verse 13, **"He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God."**

He is wearing a robe and it is dipped in blood.

It is not dipped in blood because Jesus tripped or wore the wrong outfit today.

It is bloodied on purpose.

I believe there are a few different purposes behind the blood.

On one hand, I believe that some of this blood is his own.

And then it reminds us that the glory of Jesus and the victory of Jesus and the reason that we celebrate and look forward to is only possible because of his blood that he spilled on the cross.

It is a reminder that our salvation today, and in the future comes by the blood of Jesus.

And just as he wore and bears on his body, the scars of the resurrection, his clothes will come with blood.

But it also appears to me that it is coming in blood to show that he is coming in judgment and to make war.

It appears to be a reference to prophecies in Isaiah 63.

The Messiah will come, will dip his robe in the blood of his enemies.

If you walk through a field of battle, and you have a long robe, you will get blood on it.

And Jesus is returning in glory, and he is ready to get bloody again.

He will be victorious again, but this time it will not be him who dies.

And we see another one of his names he is the word of God.

There's so much wrapped up in that phrase, the word the logos.

It is not only that Jesus is the embodiment of the scriptures in its words. The Greek and Roman world at this time also had their idea of the logos. They would refer to the world as God.

In a similar way that people today, who are not religious, may say well the universe or science and the ways that might speak of is how the Greeks and Roman thought of it, but they called the logos.

And the Bible took that to say yeah you guys are really close but let me tell you about that logos that universe that that science the way the things are what you think that is that's Jesus the word of God become flesh here he is on the horse.

He comes in glory.

## **II. Jesus will return in power (v. 14-16).**

We have already seen this a little bit.

But when Jesus returns, he is coming in power.

Jesus did not come in his first advent or his first appearance in power.

He came in weakness, and he came to serve, and he came to suffer, and he came to be defeated by those who were in power.

That is not how it is going the second time Jesus comes.

Jesus showed grace and mercy, but now he is coming with all of his might.

Verse 14, **"And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses."**

Here we see that Jesus comes with all of the armies of heaven.

One of the titles in scripture is the Lord God, Almighty.

That he is the God of angel armies.

One day that army will appear

And it will be all of the multitude of heaven.

I think that this army is not just the angelic army.

It is not just the army of the heavenly creatures.

The heavenly armies is also the Saints those who have gone before us.

The citizens of the kingdom of heaven who enlisted in the Lord's army.

And God's army is wearing white and pure linens on white horses.

This would almost seem unbelievably foolish if you did not understand the power of Jesus.

Imagine showing up to a modern war with no tanks, guns, kevlar, or armor.

They just show up riding horses, with no swords, just wearing white.

That's what the armies of heaven carry and go to battle with because that is all that they need.

They're wrapped in the righteousness and holiness of Jesus and his power is enough.

**Verse 15, "From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty."**

From the mouth of Jesus will come a sword that will strike down the nations.

It is the words of Jesus that defeat armies.

The word of God is described as a sword, and the words of Jesus, who is the word of God are described as a sword.

The main things that Jesus himself will strike down all of the nations.

Jesus will conquer every kingdom.

Jesus will conquer every tyrant, every wicked ruler.

Jesus will destroy every government in place, and he will bring them all under His rule.

He will rule them with a rod of iron, which means his authority cannot be challenged.

His power will not run out or disappear.

You will also see that he will tread the wine press.

I don't know if you've ever tread in a wine press before.

This is the image of Jesus crushing grapes beneath his feet.

In the Bible, this is typically an image used to describe the judgment of God.

Part of it is to show the bloodlines and the violence that comes from sin and from resisting God.

And part of it also is to show the ease at which God's judgment will fall and cannot be resisted.

You have no more hope of escaping the judgment of Jesus than a grape does at stopping your feet from crushing it.

The only escape is to worship Jesus now.

This is again anthropomorphic language.

It is describing the act of God's justice in the world.

It is not an emotion that God feels.

This is not Jesus having lost His temper and just wanting to kill people.

It is Jesus's divine action against sin and wickedness and pedophiles and murderers and liars and thieves and blasphemers and idolaters, and it is what God will do.

And the only way we can describe that is treading the wine press in the fury of God's wrath.

**Verse 16, "On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords."**

The thigh is normally where the sword is located.

Part of this is showing that the power of Christ comes from His name.

It is His sword.

It also appears that this could be a tattoo.

Or it could simply be written on the robe alone.

The reference to the thigh also reminds me of the many oaths that are made in the Old Testament around the thighs.

They would place their hands on the other person's thigh to swear an oath.

This very well could be a reference to that.

A reminder that Christ has kept His promise to return.

But Jesus is the king

He is the king of all kings.

He is the Lord of lords.

When Jesus went to the cross they mocked His kingship.

They nailed a sign above His head that said king of the Jews.

They put a crown of thorns on his head and wrapped him in a purple robe and spit on him and mocked him.

They thought the kingship of Jesus was a joke.

The world will not be laughing when the King of kings comes.

I want you to see that Jesus will come in power

He is coming in the fullness of his power, and for the wicked is a great terror and for the righteous, it is a great comfort because it is only through the power of Jesus that all of the cosmos and all of the world, and all the governments and all of our problems and our brokenness and our sin, and our evil can be fixed

He is the only one powerful enough to do it, and he will.

Because He is powerful enough to do it.

### **III. Jesus will return in victory (v. 17-21).**

This is the last thing that we need to see about Christ return.

He is coming to win and he is coming in victory

One of the main things you need to understand about Revelation is that Jesus wins.

That might sound like it's reductionistic, and it's oversimplifying some things.

It is simple, but it's also getting into the heart of the matter.

The book of Revelation is about how Jesus' return will be victorious over Satan, victorious over sin, victorious over death, victorious over the enemy, victorious over everything

So here we get the battle, the final battle at the end of Armageddon  
Verse 17, **"Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God,"**

This is another reference to the great wedding feast and supper.

But here it is from another angle.

This is the supper for the birds.

And it is not one that you or I will want to eat from.

The birds are invited to come to the supper  
And the supper is saying that after this battle there will be many corpses to eat.

At the end of battles, they're always animals and vultures and birds around to feast on the dead.

In some ways, this is like a taunt or trash talk before the battle.

Jesus is declaring that the angels are declaring. Jesus is about to win.

Verse 18, **"to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great."**

We get a description of all that they are going to eat.

It's a little graphic.

But there's a purpose behind it.

The birds will eat the kings, captains, powerful men, horses, and all men free and slave and great and small.

This is Jesus declaring that no one is going to escape.

All those who fight against Jesus, all those who have taken the mark of the beast and want nothing to do with Jesus.

All those who have rejected Jesus and thought they were better than Jesus and did not need Jesus will be defeated. every one of them.

It doesn't matter if they are the antichrist or the lowest.

Everyone who has rejected Christ will lose.

Verse 19, **"And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army."**

Here we see the beast and all the Kings of the Earth get all of their armies together, and they're gonna fight against Jesus and against the heavenly army

There will be those who will see Jesus coming in glory coming in power, and they will try to fight him one last time

They will still try to resist the antichrist will still try to win.

But it is a hopeless battle, and it is a foolish battle

Verse 20, **"And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur."**

It doesn't describe the battle at all.

It says they're gonna fight and Jesus wins.

He'll be victorious.

He will not break a sweat.

It will not be hard.

The beast and the antichrist and the false prophet will not escape.

There are times we have seen the wicked escape.

The killer is never found.

The tyrant ends his own life before he can stand on trial.

The wicked gets a pardon or a sweet plea deal.

But on this day no one escapes justice.

It was an escape an attempt to escape with the justice that was coming.

The antichrist and the prophet who have killed and deceived the whole world for the seven years of tribulation will be thrown right into the lake a fire

Interesting parallel, how Enoch and Elijah were the only two to ascend into heaven without dying.

Now there's gonna be two who are going to descend right into hell without dying.

The antichrist in the false prophet

They will go right to their judgment as they deserve

Because Jesus is victorious and he will be victorious over them

Verse 21, **"And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh."**

And all the rest will be slaying and defeated as well.

Not just the leaders, but everyone will be accountable for their sins.

And they are defeated by the words of Jesus by the mouth of Jesus  
The birds will leave the flesh. It's a part of the judgment of God, resisting him and trying to fight him.

Jesus wins the victory with a simple word.

His power has always been in a word.

With a simple word, God made creation and light.

With a simple word, Jesus calmed the waves and the storm.

With a simple word, Jesus cast out demons.

And with a simple word, Jesus will set the world right.

I hope that you see here the return of Jesus is our hope. It is glorious and awesome.

We talked about last week, it is the coming in the bride in the marriage supper.

This is kind of the other side of it.

There is also glory and judgment.

We have to be honest we talk about the return of Jesus what that means.

It does mean that Jesus is defeating sin and death and wipes every tear from every eye and brings a salvation that we have hoped for.

He will remake the heavens in the Earth and we will see more of the good that will come from his coming, but it also is a day of judgment

Jesus' coming is a day of victory over evil

The only way that the coming of Jesus can be good news for you and not bad news for you is if you give your life to Jesus.

The only way the return of Jesus will be good news to you is if you run to Jesus now instead of run away from Jesus.

The only way that the return of Jesus will be good for you is if you turn from your sins, if you put your faith in Jesus and Jesus alone for your salvation.

Because on the day that Jesus returns nothing and no one is gonna help you and you will have no power to fight back no power to resist no argument to tell him that he is wrong times up

Jesus will win.

And you can too.

Just come and give your life to Christ.

There is stuff in the coming of Jesus that is hard, but I want you to see that this is our hope.

We long for a God who is glorious enough, who is powerful enough and is victorious enough to defeat and Satan and the enemy and the wickedness not because we want to see our enemies punished but because we want the world to be made right.

Because we want children to stop dying, because we want cancer to be no more because we want pain and tears to go away and the only way that can happen is if sin is cleansed and eradicated from the land.

And Jesus offers us away to deliver us from the power of sin and hold of sin that it has on our hearts and our souls, and our bodies, and the only way out is the cross of Jesus and Jesus Christ

I wanna invite you because we think about the return of Jesus I hope and I pray that it is your hope.

My prayer for us as we have gone through this book is that we would look forward to Jesus's return.

That we would lift our eyes to the sky and look and wait for him.

That our hearts and our souls will be lifted up and we would be longing for Jesus to come.

That we could pray, Lord Jesus, and not just be empty words with words, we mean for the depths of our souls

Pray that Jesus would come and pray that Jesus will return. We're gonna see more chapters ahead the good news that it is but I want to remind you again and again, his return is our hope. It will be glorious and powerful and victorious so take heart today when you see evil when the cross seems weak, and when the Christian life seems anything but glamorous.

Because Jesus is coming.