

Revelation 19.11-21

Been There...Done That

From Blessedness of Wedding Supper > to Vision of Warrior-Messiah  
 Immensely Critical Moment > Anticipated from BEGINNING of the Book  
 BEASTS & Kings of Earth ULTIMATE FACE OFF with King Jesus & followers

Pearl > Beautiful Gem > Formed by Irritation & Friction > Grain of Sand in Oyster  
 5 Enemies > Dragon, Anti-Christ, False Prophet, Babylon, 'Marked' Followers  
 Thru CONFLICT w/Them > God works out Perfect Will for His Church in World

Jesus Comes > Not as Vulnerable Infant or Crucified Victim > WARRIOR KING

1. The Rivals

2. The Rider

3. The Result

1. The Rivals

#### a. Aggressive

v. 19 the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies *gathered together to make war* against the rider on the horse and his army

Book WRITTEN by Servant of God > UNDER SIEGE > TO Suffering CHURCH  
 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient  
 endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word  
 of God and the testimony of Jesus. Revelation 1.9

1<sup>st</sup> BEAST > SATAN'S TRAINED ATTACK DOG: The beast...was given power  
 to make *war against the saints and to conquer them*. And he was given authority  
 over every tribe, people, language and nation. Revelation 13.5,7

2<sup>nd</sup> BEAST > cause(d) all who refused to worship the image to be killed  
 Revelation 13.15

#### b. Impressive

v. 19 the *beast* and the *kings* of the earth and their *armies*  
 Impressive Uniforms / Colorful Standards / Sophisticated Weapons

v. 18 kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders...all people, free  
 and slave, small and great

FEARFUL PICTURE of ANTI-CHRIST / False Christ > Enemy of God:  
 And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. Revelation 13.1

2<sup>nd</sup> BEAST > FALSE Prophet > Unholy Trinity's PR Agent > PHONY Holy Spirit  
 Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. Revelation 13.11

DON'T JUDGE BY APPEARANCES > May Not See True Picture  
 When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked. Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "*Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.*" And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.  
 2 Kings 6.15-17

c. Deceptive > Beasts are in the BLINDING BUSINESS

1) Others

v. 20 the *false prophet* who had performed the miraculous signs on his (*the beast's*) behalf. With these signs he had *deluded* those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image.

he deceived the inhabitants of the earth Revelation 13.14

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.  
 2 Corinthians 4.4

2) Themselves > Tell ENOUGH LIES soon will CONVINCED YOURSELF

evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, *deceiving and being deceived*  
 2 Timothy 3.13

v. 19 gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army

SO BLINDED > THOUGHT THEIR CHAMPION BEAST WAS INVICIBLE

Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? *Who can make war against him?*”  
Revelation 13.4

HEIGHT OF IDIOCY > APEX of Self Delusion > Unimaginably FOOLISH!  
Very OBVIOUS > “YOUR ARMS ARE TOO SHORT TO BOX WITH GOD!”

...the devil...there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.  
John 8.44

## 2. The Rider

### a. Awesome

MOMENT WE’VE WAITED for Since Chapter 1 > God will SETTLE SCORE  
The revelation of Jesus Christ...the ruler of the kings of the earth.  
Revelation 1.1,5

INTENSITY BUILDS > God on THRONE / Lamb Holds Scroll of HISTORY  
I looked, and there before me was *a door standing open* in heaven. Revelation 4.1

PRELUDE to Deep, Cosmic CONFLICT > behind Earthly Struggle of Church  
Then God's *temple in heaven was opened*  
Revelation 11.19

GOD’S WRATH to be FULLY UNLEASHED > 7 Bowls / End of the Harlot  
the *tabernacle of the Testimony, was opened.* >ARK of Covenant Revelation 15.5

VICTORIOUS Champion of the CHURCH > Jesus: Savior, Messiah, Lord, God  
v. 11 I saw *heaven standing open*

v. 11 a white horse > VICTOR of Military Campaign // Julius Caesar into Rome

v. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire > No ESCAPE from HEART-PIERCING Gaze

Ardent Intensity of His Gaze > Shining Forth Absolute Truth and Righteousness  
the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire  
Revelation 2.18

v. 12 on his head are many crowns > Infinite AUTHORITY and DOMINION

To be crowned with more than one crown may seem a strange picture, but in John's time it was not uncommon for a monarch to wear more than one crown in order to show that he was king of more than one country. Bruce M. Metzger

HIS INNUMERABLE CROWNS Outnumber COUNTERFEIT Crowns of Beasts  
Dragon: 7 Crowns / 1<sup>st</sup> Beast: 10 Crowns

v. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood > BLOOD of HIS ENEMIES

They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.

Revelation 14.20

v. 15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword > FINAL WORD of Life or Death

b. Ancient > NOT just the FINAL BATTLE > CONFLICT thru ALL AGES

v. 11 called Faithful *and True* // v. 13 and his name is the *Word of God*

Hebrew thought > Word is not Lifeless Sound > Active CREATIVE Agent  
GOD SPOKE world into BEING > 6 Life Giving Words > 6 CREATIVE DAYS  
Old Man ISAAC'S Blessing > Stolen by Deceitful Jacob > Unavailable to ESAU

CONFLICT began in the GARDEN of EDEN > "ancient serpent called the devil or Satan, who leads the whole world astray"

Revelation 12.9

WORD of GOD > SUBJECT and CENTER of the BATTLE from DAY ONE

FIRST WORDS out of the SERPENT'S MOUTH > Doubt, Deceive and Destroy  
Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "*Did God really say...?*"

Genesis 3.1

Strategy > RAISE DOUBT about the Word of God > His Love, Justice, Truth  
God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

Genesis 3.5

SPIRITUAL WARFARE > Theme of History > Conflict of the Ages  
God Pronounced DEATH SENTENCE on SATAN > in Crime Scene of EDEN  
I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; *he will crush your head*, and you will strike his heel.

Genesis 3.15

1000 Years before Jesus Came > KING DAVID fought this BATTLE  
v. 15 “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” > Confident of OUTCOME

Psalm 2 > Nations Rage > Kings Rebel > One Enthroned in Heaven LAUGHS

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD  
our God. They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm.  
Psalm 20.7,8

700 years before Jesus Came > Prophet ISAIAH Engaged in ULTIMATE FIGHT

DESCRIBED WINNING STRATEGY: He will strike the earth with the rod of  
his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Isaiah 11.4

v. 15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations.

GOD THE WARRIOR: I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no  
one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath;  
their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing. Isaiah 63.3

vs. 13,16 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood...He treads the winepress of the  
fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

JESUS OWN BLOOD > Accomplished OUR SALVATION > 1<sup>st</sup> Coming  
2<sup>nd</sup> Coming > BLOOD of HIS ENEMIES > Evidence their CONDEMNATION

This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has  
now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has  
destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.  
2 Timothy 1.9,10

c. Almighty > NAMES REVEAL HIS NATURE / CHARACTER

v. 11 called Faithful and True

Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness Revelation 1.5

Tells LAODICIEAN Church > Will Not Tolerate LUKEWARM Indifference  
the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation  
Revelation 3.14

MARTYRS Died because they believed that HE ALONE was THE TRUTH those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained... ‘How long, *Sovereign Lord, holy and true*, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?’ Revelation 6.9,10

v. 13 his name is the Word of God > Apostle JOHN is Author of this Revelation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. John 1.1,14  
JESUS CHRIST > NOTHING LESS than GOD IN HUMAN FLESH

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword.  
Hebrews 4.12

“Faithfulness to the gospel’s message is not mere intellectual concurrence but personal allegiance to the Son who uniquely reveals the Father, having been with the Father from the beginning and having become flesh that we might see the Father’s glory through him.”  
Dennis E. Johnson

v. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is *Lord of lords and King of kings* Revelation 17.14

### 3. The Result

a. Symbols > Not EARTHLY Military Campaign > Spiritual Warfare

While the events portrayed in apocalyptic language are to be taken with all seriousness, they are not to be taken literalistically. Robert H. Mounce

On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: ‘*Write on a scroll what you see* and send it to the seven churches...  
Revelation 1.10

v. 11 I saw heaven standing open

v. 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun

v. 19 And I saw the beast and kings of the earth

“The only way you can understand book of Revelation is to take LSD!”

*Former* Member of ICF Leader Board

What is LITERAL? What is TRUTH? What can we BELIEVE?

Must UNDERSTAND the Author’s PURPOSE > STYLE of Literature Employed  
BIBLE: COLLECTION of Writings> Law, History, Poetry, Prophecy, Apocalypse

REVELATION > Pictures of LITERAL EVENTS described by Jesus & Apostles  
God: Creator, Judge, Redeemer / Father, Son, Spirit / Eternal Heaven & Hell

CLEAR TEACHING of HISTORICAL NARRATIVES in Gospels, Acts, Letters

The descriptions are not descriptions of real occurrences, but of symbols of the real occurrences. The message John conveys through this symbolism is that evil will surely be overthrown. Here that message is presented in apocalyptic pictures of almost repellent realism.  
Bruce M. Metzger

b. Sure

v. 11 With justice he judges and makes war.

BEFORE THE BATTLE BEGINS > Clean-Up Crew is INVITED

v. 17,18 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, “Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great.”

ECHOES CALL MADE BY EXILED PROPHET OF GOD IN BABYLON

"Call out to every kind of bird and all the wild animals: 'Assemble and come together from all around to the sacrifice I am preparing for you, the great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel. There you will eat flesh and drink blood. You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth as if they were rams and lambs...At the sacrifice I am preparing for you, you will eat fat till you are glutted and drink blood till you are drunk. At my table you will eat your fill of horses and riders, mighty men and soldiers of every kind,' declares the Sovereign LORD.  
Ezekiel 39.17-20

Nowhere in Revelation is the victorious Christ portrayed in symbols and language more likely to convince the reader that in spite of Satan’s best efforts God and the Lamb will emerge triumphant in the end.  
Robert H. Mounce

When you are about to go into battle, the priest shall come forward and address the army. He shall say: "Hear, O Israel, today you are going into battle against your enemies. Do not be fainthearted or afraid; do not be terrified or give way to panic before them. For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory." Deuteronomy 20.2-4

VICTORY AFFIRMED FROM FIRST CHAPTER: Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

Revelation 1.7

A. People of God: Struggling Amidst Light and Creation, 12.1-2  
 B. Dragon: Satan, 12.3-6  
 C. 1<sup>st</sup> Beast (Anti-Christ) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Beast (False Prophet), 13.1-8  
 D. Bride of the Lamb: Presented in Purity, 14.1-5  
 E. Babylon the Prostitute, 17.1-6  
 E. Babylon Destroyed, 17.15 – 18.24  
 D. Wedding of the Lamb: Preserved in Purity, 19.1-10  
 C. Anti-Christ and False Prophet Destroyed, 19.11-21  
 B. Dragon: Satan Destroyed, 20.1-10  
 A. People of God: Secure Amidst Light and Creation, 21.1 – 22.5

adapted from chiasm by Vern S. Poythress

c. Swift > Battle Ends History > Over in BLINK of EYE > Been there, Done that...

v. 20 But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet

As QUICKLY as IRON CURTAIN Collapsed /or World Trade Center FELL

v. 21 The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

LAST BATTLE is OVER > LAMB is VICTORIOUS > SAINTS Safely HOME

“God triumphantly clears the battle field and swallows up his enemies in death.”

A. Schlatter

d. Single-handed Lethal Power of His Word > Death-Dealing Pronouncement

v. 21 The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse



ACCOMPANYING ARMY > Front Seat to witness THEIR VINDICATION vs. 14,15 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of *his mouth* comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “*He* will rule them with an iron scepter.” *He* treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

Truth is nowhere to be found...The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak. According to what they have done, so will he repay wrath to his enemies and retribution to his foes  
Isaiah 59.15-18

It is OVER BEFORE it STARTS > X's Armies merely DIGNIFIED OBSERVERS Christ's Followers ADD NOTHING to the ACCOMPLISHMENT of His Victory

Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel... "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's... You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you... Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.' "

Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the LORD... "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful."

As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men... who were invading Judah, and they were defeated... they destroyed one another. When the men of Judah... looked toward the vast army, they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground; no one had escaped... Then, led by Jehoshaphat, all the men of Judah and Jerusalem returned joyfully to Jerusalem, for the LORD had given them cause to rejoice over their enemies... The fear of God came upon all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard how the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel. And the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side.  
2 Chronicles 20.14-30

e. Solemn Supper of God > Sulfur Lake > Sword out of His Mouth

1) Citizens > Cross-Section of God's Children who Rejected His Grace

v. 17,18 an angel...cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for *the great supper of God*, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great."

In Final Conflict > No Preference will be Given to Rank or Station of Life  
Universal Dishonor and Destruction > Not Even DIGNITY of PROPER BURIAL

Jesus: 'Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather' Matthew 24.28

HORRIBLE OPPOSITE OF WEDDING SUPPER OF THE LAMB  
Destiny of EACH COMMUNITY > Depends on Success or Failure of Champion

2) Conscious

v. 20 The two of them were thrown *alive into the fiery lake* of burning sulfur.

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> HIGHEST CARDS on God's DECK of the Hierarchy of Evil

Those who have gratefully welcomed the salvation that flows from the cross on which the blood of Christ was shed for them will enter into the fullness of the blessing of that blood-shedding, while the blood of those who have despised that blood-shedding will flow from the winepress that is trodden by the Son.

Philip E. Hughes

3) Continuous

...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

2 Nouns translated "WRATH" or "ANGER" > found 13 times in chapters 6 – 19

Any view of God that eliminates judgment and his hatred of sin in the interest of an emasculated doctrine of sentimental affection finds no support in the strong and virile realism of the Apocalypse.

Robert H. Mounce

## f. Sovereign

v. 16 he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

No matter who was on the throne of the Roman Empire, Jesus Christ was his King and Lord!  
Warren W. Wiersbe

v. 11 ...Faithful and True. With *justice* he judges and makes war

The wars of earthly armies typically leave much unjust suffering and destruction in their wake. This war, however, is utterly just, because of the supreme power and justice of the One who wages war.  
Vern S. Poythress

“for true and just are his judgments.” Revelation 19.2

Croatian Theologian > His People’s Suffering at hands of Serbians > JUSTICE WEST > Quiet SUBURBAN HOMES > Says God could NEVER PUNISH!  
“To people living in a war zone, whose villages have been plundered and burned, whose daughters and sisters have been raped, and whose fathers and brothers murdered. In this scorched land, soaked in the blood of the innocent, any refusal to accept God’s righteous punishing justice will invariably die.” Miroslav Volf

v. 12 He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.  
Name No One Knows but Himself > ‘the name which is above every name’

In Some Cultures > People FEAR giving their NAMES to STRANGERS  
When Someone has your NAME > Gain MEASURE OF CONTROL over You

1983 > Moved to N.W. Uganda > LUGBARA People > Confronted 2 Tribal Ideas

1. Parents told Children > If you are BAD, White people will come EAT YOU!  
Since Idi Amin had Ruled from 1971 > Moved to his Hometown > Few Whites

2. People believed > Stranger learned NAME > put HEX on your LIFE

We TERRIFIED Little Kids > When SUDDENLY appeared on Hillside Trails  
Say in Lugbara “Hello, what is your Name?” > RACED OFF into Hills!!

UNTOUCHABILITY of Jesus > Never be Controlled by Man

No OPPONENT can OVERTHROW Him or Even SLOW HIS ADVANCE

Jacob said (to Angel of the Lord) , "Please tell me your name." But he replied,  
"Why do you ask my name?" Genesis 32.28

Then Manoah inquired of the angel of the LORD , "What is your name, so that we  
may honor you when your word comes true?" He replied, "Why do you ask my  
name? It is beyond understanding."...Manoah realized that it was the angel of the  
LORD..."We have seen God!" Judges 13.17-22

OUR WARRIOR KING / ALSO WEDDING HOST > OUR BRIDEGROOM

WORLD > WILL NEVER KNOW HIS NAME > BUT WE WILL!!

Him who overcomes...I will also give him a white stone with a new name written  
on it, known only to him who receives it. Revelation 2.17

Him who overcomes...I will write on him the name of my God and the name of  
the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from  
my God; and I will also write on him my new name. Revelation 3.12

ONLY DIFFERENCE between those Invited to Wedding Supper of LAMB  
Those comprise SUPPER of God > Dead Flesh is Torn by Ravenous Birds

JESUS > His Righteousness > His Merit > His Grace > His Sovereign CALL

The word of grace they have rejected becomes the word of judgment by which  
they are condemned. Tragically, because of their blind folly and hardness of heart,  
the means of their salvation is transformed into the means of their damnation.

Philip E. Hughes

They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because  
he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and *with him will be his called, chosen and  
faithful followers.* Revelation 17.14

All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except  
the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son  
chooses to reveal him. Matthew 11.27

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## Revelation 19.11-21

<sup>11</sup>I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup>His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. <sup>13</sup>He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. <sup>14</sup>The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup>Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. <sup>16</sup>On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

<sup>17</sup>And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, <sup>18</sup>so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great."

<sup>19</sup>Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. <sup>20</sup>But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. <sup>21</sup>The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.