



BOOKENDS

GENESIS

REVELATION

THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE

REVELATION 19:11-21

SYNOPSIS

Revelation 19:11–21 presents the climactic return of Jesus Christ as the victorious King. John sees Jesus riding on a white horse, bearing the names Faithful and True, the Word of God, and King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Unlike earthly rulers, Jesus returns with perfect character, absolute authority, complete sovereignty, and power beyond human comprehension. The victory of Christ is not uncertain or contested. Before the battle even begins, its outcome has already been declared. Revelation presents a clear choice: every person will ultimately bow before Jesus Christ. Because the end of the story has already been written, believers are called to live faithfully under Christ’s reign today rather than waiting until His return to acknowledge His kingship.

SERMON OUTLINE

Main Idea: When the King returns, we will all bow the knee—either in joyful submission or in dreadful judgment.

1. The King’s Return (Revelation 19:11-16): John sees Jesus return as the victorious Rider on the White Horse. His names reveal why His victory is certain:

- a. **Faithful and True**
Jesus perfectly fulfills God’s will and remains faithful to His promises.
- b. **A Name No One Knows**
Jesus is greater than human understanding.
- c. **The Word of God**
Jesus comes with divine authority.
- d. **King of Kings and Lord of Lords**

Jesus possesses supreme sovereignty over every ruler, government, and earthly power.

Because Christ returns with victory already secured, believers can live with confidence and hope today.

2. Every Knee Will Bow (Revelation 19:17-21): The outcome of the final battle is announced before it begins. Christ defeats His enemies with the sword of His mouth, demonstrating the power of His Word and the certainty of His judgment.

Yet many continue to resist His rule. Revelation reveals several reasons people refuse to submit to Christ:

- a. **Unwilling to Give Up the Crown**
Humanity naturally desires autonomy and self-rule.
- b. **The Narrow Way is Difficult**
The path of obedience is often harder than the path of convenience.
- c. **Blinded by Sin**
Sin distorts our vision and hardens our hearts against God. Apart from the work of the Holy Spirit, people cannot see Christ's beauty or submit to His reign.

The good news of the gospel is that Jesus has already secured victory for His people. Those who trust in Him will share in His triumph when He returns.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Special Leader's Note: Please remember that we are getting into heavily debated passages of scripture. Some will likely disagree with Pastor Thomas's choice of interpretation on various symbols in this and coming chapters. That is okay! But be careful to not let the group discussion become a debate on symbol interpretation. Get to the practical heart level discussions around the principles of the text.

GROUP REFLECTION & APPLICATION

1. **Observing the Text:** First, make sure to have your group spend time looking at the text, and observing the text without reflecting on the sermon. You want the group to get familiar with the text, and the words, and the flow of thought. Keep making observations until you feel the group has a solid grasp of the entire text.
2. The Rider is given several names: Faithful and True, a Name No One Knows, the Word of God, and King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Which of these titles stands out most to you, and what does it teach us about who Jesus is?
3. Everyone wears a "crown" in some area of life. What is one area where you are most tempted to maintain control rather than submit to Christ's authority?

4. Jesus says the way that leads to life is narrow and difficult. Where do you currently feel the tension between following Christ faithfully and choosing what is easier or more comfortable?
5. How does knowing the final outcome of history—that Christ ultimately wins—change the way we approach suffering, uncertainty, or opposition today?
6. “When the King returns, we will all bow the knee—either in joyful submission or in dreadful judgment.” What does joyful submission to Christ practically look like in your life this week?

FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Question: Imagine you got to make every rule in your house for one whole day. What rules would you make? Do you think those rules would always be good for everyone else?

After everyone shares, ask:

- Why do you think God wants Jesus to be our King instead of letting everyone be their own king?
- Are there times when you know what God wants you to do, but you want to do something different?
- What is one way you can show Jesus is King in your life this week?

Tip for Parents: Children naturally understand the desire to be in charge. The kings in Revelation 19 refused to submit to Jesus because they wanted to keep their own crowns. Help your children see that following Jesus means trusting that His way is better than our way. The goal is not simply obedience to rules, but joyful submission to the King who loves us, knows what is best for us, and gave His life for us.