

The Rider on the White Horse ~ Part 3

Revelation 19:11-21

The End Times

In my last post, we explored **Revelation 19:11-21 ~ The Rider on the White Horse ~ Part 2**. In this post, we continue to examine **Revelation 19:11-21 ~ The Rider on the White Horse ~ Part 3**.

¹¹ Next I saw heaven opened, and there before me was a white horse. Sitting on it was the One called Faithful and True, and it is in righteousness that He passes judgment and goes to battle. ¹² His eyes were like a fiery flame, and on His head were many royal crowns. And He had a name written which no one knew but Himself. ¹³ He was wearing a robe that had been soaked in blood, and the name by which He is called is, "THE WORD OF GOD." ¹⁴ The armies of heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and pure, were following Him on white horses. ¹⁵ And out of His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down nations — "He will rule them with a staff of iron." It is He who treads the winepress from which flows the wine of the furious rage of Adonai, God of heaven's armies. ¹⁶ And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. ¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out in a loud voice to all the birds that fly about in mid-heaven, "Come, gather together for the great feast God is giving, ¹⁸ to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of generals, the flesh of important men, the flesh of horses and their riders and the flesh of all kinds of people, free and slave, small and great!" ¹⁹ I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to do battle with the rider of the horse and his army. ²⁰ But the beast was taken captive, and with it the false prophet who, in its presence, had done the miracles which he had used to deceive those who had received the mark of the beast and those who had worshipped his image. The beast and the false prophet were both thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. ²¹ The rest were killed with the sword that goes out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh. ~ Revelation 19:11-21 (CJB)

An Angel Calls Forth the Flesh-Eating Birds (19:17-18)

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out in a loud voice to all the birds that fly about in mid-heaven, "Come, gather together for the great feast God is giving, ¹⁸ to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of generals, the flesh of important men, the flesh of horses and their riders and the flesh of all kinds of people, free and slave, small and great!" The imagery is from the book of Ezekiel 39:17-20, although Ezekiel is speaking of the battle of Gog and Magog, which does not appear in Revelation until 20:8. **Yochanan** now witnesses the aftermath of the most devastating conflict in human history. He caught a glimpse of this struggle in Revelation, chapter nine, and then another aspect of it in Revelation, chapter sixteen. But now, he witnesses the results in gory detail. The number of men slaughtered will range from two hundred to four hundred million, representing all the nations of the world. Gary Cohen and Salem Kirban add these thoughts: ¹

Here an angel standing with the sun as his background invites the carrion of the sky to "THE SUPPER OF THE GREAT GOD." Thus this chapter speaks of two end-time contrasting suppers. "THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB" which will be a feast of unbounding joy as the redeemed partake of this feast together with their wonderful Lord. The armies of the redeemed who come with their Lord (19:14) will have part in this grand banquet. The armies of the wicked nations that in the end-time choose to follow Antichrist, the Beast shall at this Revelation appearance of Jesus Christ be involved in this other supper (19:17-18). These shall be slain by "the brightness of His coming" and their dead bodies shall lie upon the ground lifeless to be picked at by the crows, hawks, and vultures 2 Thess. 2:8. This is a Supper of Death to which the followers of Antichrist will attend; while those who love Christ will attend the Supper of Life!

¹ A Layman's Commentary on Revelation by Don Jones.

The Doom of the Beast and False Prophet: Revelation (19:19-21)

I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to do battle with the rider of the horse and His army. ²⁰ But the beast was taken captive, and with it the false prophet who, in its presence, had done the miracles which he had used to deceive those who had received the mark of the beast and those who had worshipped his image. The beast and the false prophet were both thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. ²¹ The rest were killed with the sword that goes out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh. There will be no doubt as to the outcome of this battle. In the previous Scripture, the birds of prey are summoned to prepare themselves for a feast.

Here is God's answer to the logical conundrum, "How do you throw away the trash can?" *The beast... and with him the false prophet* are *thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur* (compare Ezekiel 38:22), "prepared for the Adversary and his angels" (Matt. 25:41). At Revelation 20:10, **HaSatan** himself joins these *angels* of his to be tormented forever and ever. *Death and Sh'ol* themselves are thrown into this *lake of fire*, as there is no longer any need for them. And in the final judgment of humanity, *"Anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was hurled into the lake of fire"* (20:15).

And all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh. In Judaism, following biblical practice, the honored dead are buried. Not to be buried is a disgrace (see 2 Kings 9:34), and being torn apart by buzzards and dogs is the ultimate disgrace (note **Yeshua's** figurative use of this fact at Matt. 24:28).

Special Comparative Note on Chapter 19:11-21 ²

See the explanation for each of the four views in **Part 1 of the Rider on the White Horse**.

In my next post, we'll examine a **Summary of Chapters 17-19** and an **Introduction to Revelation 20 ~ The Millennium**.

² Material in this post is taken from "Revelation: Four Views, Revised & Updated" by Steve Gregg. Notations in brackets, if any, are my comments.