



THE RETURN OF THE KING



PART 2 - THE CONQUERING KING

BELONG

Start the group with an opportunity for community. We want this to be a place where the body of Christ can **belong** by sharing their lives with one another in genuine fellowship.

- Have you ever heard of the ‘Battle of Armageddon?’ What do you think it is?
 - When you think of Jesus, what do you think of? What does He look like?
 - Is biblical prophecy intimidating to you at all? What is your response to reading passages such as the one today in Revelation 19?
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BELIEVE

Move into the relevant Bible passages and read along together. This is where the body of Christ can learn together to **believe** in Jesus more and love Him better.

In Part 1 of ‘The Return of the King,’ we looked at Jesus’ own remarks to the disciples about His Second Coming. ‘No one knows the day or the hour’ is perhaps the most well-known verse regarding the return of Jesus and has become a stumbling block for many in the Church in how they approach the study of the End Times. A Christian is to neither dismiss the study of prophecy nor to fixate on specific age-ending events as though they can in any way predict them. Ultimately, we need to be aware and prepared (for more on this subject, read Part 1!).

As we move forward to the Bible’s actual depiction of the future appearance of Christ in Revelation 19, we begin to see the full majesty of Jesus on display and come face-to-face with the awesome (and admittedly terrifying) image of the one true God in all His splendor.

Revelation 19 : 11 – 16 (ESV)

¹¹Then 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. ¹²His 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. ¹³He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵From 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. ¹⁶On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

When Christ comes again in all His power and goodness, He will conquer His enemies and usher in a new creation. Revelation 19 introduces us to the famous scene of ‘The Battle of Armageddon.’ What exactly is this battle? And why is it important?

The Battle of Armageddon¹

The actual word ‘Armageddon’ only appears once in the entire Bible, in Revelation 16:16. The passage in chapter 16 is critical in that it sets the stage for Christ’s return in chapter 19. John tells us that, in anticipation of the Second Coming, the Beast and his armies gather to face off against God. The passage ends by saying:

Revelation 16 : 16 (NKJV)

¹⁶And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

Notice that the word ‘Armageddon’ is actually a Greek term for a Hebrew word. The original Hebrew word for ‘Armageddon’ means ‘Mount of Megiddo.’ The Mount of Megiddo is a hill overlooking the valley of Megiddo in Israel and is famous for being the place of many significant military battles in the Old Testament. For this reason, many believe the final battle whereby Christ overcomes His last enemies will take place at Megiddo.

The Battle of Armageddon represents the final stand of Satan against God. In this climactic battle, Satan will bring the full force of His armies against Jesus in a vain attempt to defeat Him and continue his own demonic world empire. However, we soon find out that this is no ‘battle’ at all. Jesus and His army will dispatch with Satan effortlessly. The way in which Jesus conquers His enemies tells us much about the kind of God He is.

How Does Christ Conquer His Enemies?

1. Christ Conquers by His Nature

Revelation 19 describes Jesus in a way unlike any other passage in the Bible and His appearance is completely foreign to our view of Jesus as we know Him in the Gospel accounts. This is because, as Jesus appears for the second time, He comes with His full majesty on display before the world. The true nature of Jesus as revealed in Revelation is somewhat terrifying, but as Christians we have no need to fear Jesus as Conqueror. Revelation 19 makes clear that Jesus’ nature is good and just.

¹ <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/end-times/what-is-the-battle-of-armageddon-meaning-significance.html>

- V.11 - 'Faithful and True'
Christ is unfailing and genuine. Jesus is completely authentic and hides nothing of His true nature at the Second Coming. He is the 'real deal' solution to our problems.
- V.11 - 'He Judges and Makes War'
The verbs used here by John are present tense. Jesus' battle against evil is active and ongoing. The Battle of Armageddon, a literal event, is the culmination of a spiritual war that has been taking place since the beginning of time and is happening today. That Jesus judges means He separates right from wrong. That He makes war means He actively fights against injustice. Jesus is a warrior who fights for His people and executes judgement upon His enemies.
- V.13 - 'Robe Dipped in Blood'
Before the battle even starts, Jesus is already covered in blood! That His robe is dipped in blood calls to mind Jesus' death on the Cross. He died that His own enemies might go free. He was willing to not shed the blood of His enemies but instead have His own blood shed on their behalf. This beautiful invitation, as the Second Coming makes clear, will not be offered forever, however.

2. Christ Conquers by His Power

The power of Jesus is unmatched. If you have the displeasure of coming face-to-face with the King of Kings at His Second Coming, you will witness firsthand His undeniable strength.

- V.12 - 'Eyes like a Flame of Fire'
Jesus' eyes burn through everything and get down to the core. His eyes pierce through with unwavering holiness. Nothing is hidden from Jesus. He sees all and He knows all. Nothing in your life can be hidden from Jesus. There is no sin, thought, or desire that will remain hidden before Him.
- V.12 - 'Many Diadems'
Diadems are crowns, and Christ wears multiple at His Second Coming. The imagery is fairly straight forward. Jesus is King, and He wears the crown of a king. He rules over not one land, but all lands: the entire world! V.16 tells us He is the 'king of kings' and 'lord of lords.' This is meant quite literally. We have politicians and presidents, but they are mere fools if they think themselves supreme. Christ is omnipotent and sovereign.
- V. 12 - 'A Name Written No One Knows But Himself'
In the 1st century, knowing the name of a 'god' was significant because it was thought that it gave a person power over them; the ability to interrupt them. God has provided to us many names by which to call Him, but there still yet remain names even we do not know. As much as we know about Christ, there is more to Him than we can imagine. We are not capable of knowing all there is to know about this King.

3. Christ Conquers by His Word

In John 1:1(NKJV), it says “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Christ Himself is the living Word, and the Word of Christ is absolute.

- V.15 - ‘A Sharp Sword’

This isn’t the first time we see God’s word described as a sword. Hebrews 4:12 (KJV) says, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword...”

For all disagreement in our world about what God says, a day will come when every voice raised against Jesus will cease to matter. His word is absolute, and with it He will strike the nations. This same word we hold in our hands today: it’s called the Bible. The Bible, the Word of God, has the final word on how we live our lives. Jesus, the living Word of God, will have the final word when He returns.

Jesus cannot help but conquer. The glorious, dangerous, gracious, all-powerful King of the universe conquers just by showing up; His enemies never stood a chance! Ready or not, here He comes.

BECOME

Wrap up the discussion by asking some closing questions. We can **become** more like the people God is calling us to be by reflecting on what we’ve learned and applying it.

- Do you see any contradiction between Jesus as the meek Messiah in the Gospels, and Jesus as the all-powerful Warrior in Revelation?
- Have you ever considered that the window of grace for sinners eventually closes at Jesus’ Second Coming? What are we to make of that fact?
- Why has God included this description of Jesus in the Bible? How does viewing Jesus in His full majesty, riding atop a white horse, change how we view Jesus?