

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

"Great Day of Wrath"

Revelation 19:11-16

Introduction

1. Revelation 17 and 18 come near the end of the tribulation period. The present verses are at the very end of the same tribulation.
2. This is not the last judgment. That comes about one thousand years later than the events described here. Furthermore, this is done to clear the earth for the establishment of the kingdom (millennium).
3. Details of the event are provided with graphicness. Key figure in the activities is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Israel. All relates to victory

1. LEADER of the victory

In order to reveal the Lord, heaven is opened. The verb is a perfect passive participle noting that heaven stands opened by God. Other instances of similar opening of heaven are given (Ezek 1:1; Matt. 3:16; Rev. 4:1; 10:1; 14:17; 18:1). With heaven opened, the Lord appears. This is what is seen:

a. White horse vv. 11. There is no reason to deny the literality of the horse (cf. 2 Kings 2:11; 6:13-17). The white horse rider earlier (6:1) was the antichrist; here it is the Christ of God!

b. Horse rider vv. 11, 12, 13, 16. He is described in detail:

1) Eyes Earlier reference has been made to His eyes (1:18; 2:18). Here they are flames of fire. Judgment is in view. Divine omniscience is also: He sees and knows all.

2) Head Others had the diadems stated here (12:3; 13:1). But our Lord has "many". This means He holds every form and kind of government. The diadem relates to despotic rule. A crown relates to a monarchy. Christ has the former.

3) Clothes Two perfect passive verbs are used in relation to the clothing. He is wrapped around with these garments. They are dipped (or sprinkled) with blood. This is not the blood of the cross, but the blood of battle (Isa. 34:1-8; 63:1-6; Rev. 14:14-20). All of this relates to the events prophesied in the Old Testament, too (Zech. 12:1-9; 14:1-3).

4) Names Several are listed:

a) Faithful and true. The former concerns His fidelity to His promises and threats. The latter relates to the truthfulness of His very word and act.

b) Word of God. This identifies the author as John. He is the one who calls our Lord by this name (John 1:1, 14; 1 John 1:1). It shows Him as God (Heb. 1:1).

c) Unknown. The verb "had" shows this is His always. There is that in Christ which cannot be revealed. No name can fully bespeak His person, hence this name.

d) King of kings and Lord of lords. Nothing could more adequately show that He has world dominion. The name is on His thigh; no sword there. Elsewhere, this same total dominion is given to Him (17:14; 1 Tim. 6:15). The perfect passive participle "written" demonstrates the perpetuity of the name.

2. SAINTS of the victory v. 14.

These are described as following on white horses. The imperfect tense for "follow" shows the trail behind the Lord. The white linen speaks of imparted righteousness. They have demonstrated their words! This is the same as the bride (v. 8). Angels will be there, too (Matt. 16:27, 25:31; Heb. 1:6). This will be the fulfillment of the prophecy of Jude 14. The saints are only the church. The plural "armies" speaks of various groups within the church and does not include Israel or Gentile saints of the Old Testament.

3. EQUIPMENT of the victory v. 15.

One item is mentioned: sword. The armies have no weapon but the leader does. It is His Word. Such word is powerful (John 16:5, 6). The purpose (so Greek) of the

sword is to "smite" the nations. The battle is the Lord's. Glory! This same equipment is mentioned elsewhere (1:16; 2:12).

4. METHOD of victory vv. 11, 15.

a. Judges The fact of the matter is He judges and makes war with righteousness. This is a totally new approach to the affairs of nations.

b. Treads There are four genitives here and translated literally: "the winepress of the wrath of the anger of God Almighty." The present tense of the verb shows the continual activity involved. The emphatic pronoun is used. God's fierce wrath and anger have finally come to display against sin!

c. Rules Another emphatic pronoun is used as with the verb "tread". The verb really means to "shepherd". This is His gracious function (cf. 2:27; 12:5; 1 Pet. 2:25; Heb. 13:20). The whole concept here relates to Psalm 2 and Isaiah 11:1-4.

NOTE: Three items of judgment are listed here: sword--for death; rod--for inflexible government; winepress--for total wrath. He is the Almighty!

Conclusion The last of God's patience is spent. He comes with vengeance here to bring to naught all opposition. Oh, flee to Him now and be saved. It will be too late at the day of His great wrath. Now is the time to accept Him.