

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

"Wrath of Almighty God"

Revelation 19:11-16

Introduction

1. The marriage of the Lamb (v. 7) and the marriage supper (v. 9) are speedily followed by the closing scenes of the present age. Make no mistake, it is cataclysmic and filled with war, blood, and battle. The powers of eternity will now forcibly take possession of the earth.

2. These events are now revealed to John in a most spectacular fashion:

a. Heaven is opened

A triple reduplication provides a perfect passive participle (ἡνωγμένον eneogmenon) hence from outside, the heaven now "stands opened." The vision is clear.

b. John saw and beholds

There is no doubt about the information recorded. The apostle saw and what he saw got his attention.

b. A white horse and rider

While the vision is of a literal horse, this horse is a symbol of power connected with the earth. The sublime Rider is our Lord Jesus Christ. The inscriptions which He bears infallibly identify Him as our blessed Lord. The earlier white horse rider is antichrist (6:1).

3. In what manner is our Beloved presented in this vision? Consider these ways:

1. His PERSON vv. 12, 15, 16

a. His Eyes v. 12

Earlier reference has been made to His eyes (1:18; 2:18). Some MSS omit the "as" of comparison to make a direct statement. Thus, divine judgment sourced in divine omniscience is exercised here while the previous references are merely attributable characteristics of His eyes.

b. His Head v. 12

The dragon (12:2) and the beast (13:1) had diadems, but our Lord has "many" (πολλά polla) diadems, connoting absolute authority. He holds every form and kind of government for a diadem relates to despotic rule.

c. His Mouth v. 15

This is remarkable for the sword out of His mouth is His spoken Word (cf. 1:16; 2:12). Enemies fell at His Word in the garden (Jn 18:5, 6). Here is the only offensive weapon mentioned – His irresistible powerful Word!

d. His Thigh v. 16

Only here in the N.T. is His thigh mentioned. The connection is to His garments and mind surpassing Name. No sword on His body, but a world dominion Name!

2. His CLOTHING vv. 13, 16

a. Detailed v. 13

Two perfect passive verbs are used: 1) He "was clothed" or wrapped around (περιβεβλημένος periblemenos). 2) He had garments "dipped" (βεβαμένον bebamenon) 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 O.T. (Zech. 12:1-9; 14:1-3).

b. Related v. 13, 16

The verb "has" (ἔχει echei) simply notes the possession of clothing (v. 16). However, on it is related Name of deity. Superb!

3. His NAME vv. 11, 12, 13, 16

Three are listed in the text:

a. Unknown v. 12

This Name He has (present tense) and it stands written (perfect tense), but only He, the Lord Himself, knows it. It may be the "new name" (3:12) indicative of the completed union between His own and His final triumph. It is a sealed matter. Some day we will know another glorious Name of our Beloved.

b. Called vv. 11, 13

1) Faithful and True (v. 11). The verb "called" (καλούμενος kaloumenos) is present passive denoting He is always called by the Names. As "Faithful," He has fidelity to His promises as well as His threats. Being "True," He has truthfulness of His every word and act (cf. 1 Jn 1:4).

2) Word of God (v. 13). The verb here is present passive as above. Surely this Name identifies the author of the Revelation for He used this Name of our Lord in His writings (1:1, 14; 1 Jn 1:1). Unquestionably, the Name points to the deity of Christ (Heb. 1:1).

c. Written v. 16

The perfect passive verb (γεγραμένον gegramenon) demonstrates the perpetuity of this Name. Christ Jesus will never relinquish His position of total world dominion. Elsewhere this suzerainty is given to Him (17:14; 1 Tim. 6:15).

4. His ACTIONS vv. 11, 15

a. He Judges and Makes War v. 11

The Lord will come to control the destinies of the world for 1000 years. The day of this appointment and the ordained Man has arrived (Acts 17:31). The Commander of the hosts of heaven has come! The powers of judging and making war are not to be separated. They necessarily go together. Thus, first the judgment, then the war. Armed rebellion is judged so that the warring can be done intelligently. Christ has, therefore, both powers in Himself, but He exercises them in righteousness unto destruction. Righteousness is His characteristic as Judge and Warrior.

b. He Smites v. 15

This is accomplished by the sword of His mouth (cf. Isa. 11:4). This is almighty, immediate, judicial punishment. May mean death (Heb. 4:12).

c. He Treads v. 14

There are four genitives here and translated "the press of the wine of the wrath and of the angel of God of the Almighty." The present tense verb tread (πατεί patei) points to continual activity. The emphatic personal pronoun "He" avers that the Lord Jesus does all this. His fierce wrath and anger against sin has finally come to be displayed.

d. He Rules v. 15

Another emphatic pronoun is used with the verb "rule." Amazingly, the Holy Spirit employs the verb meaning "shepherd" (ποιμαίνει poimenei) which is rendered "rule" (KJV). This is our Lord's gracious function (2:27; 12:5; 1 Pet. 1:25; Heb. 13:20). The entire concept here concerns Scripture (Ps 2; Isa. 11:1-4).

Note: Three instruments of judgment are recorded: 1) Sword – for death. 2) Rod – for inflexible government. 3) Winepress – for total wrath. Without doubt, He is the Almighty!

5. His ASSOCIATES v. 14

These are:

a. Defined

They are the armies of heaven or saints. The plural seems to connote the various groups within the church. Israel and Gentiles probably are not included (cf. 1 Cor. 6:2; 2 Thess. 1:10). Angels, may be present (Mt. 16:27; 25:31; Heb. 1:6). The fulfillment of Jude's prophecy has come (1:14).

b. Activated

The imperfect verb follow (ἡκολουθεῖ ekolouthei) notes the continued flow of saints coming with the Lord from heaven. What a sight to behold!

c. Dressed

"Clothed" is a perfect passive participle (ἐνδεδυμένοι endedumenoi). The white, clean linen is imparted (demonstrated) righteousness, not imputed (reckoned) righteousness. They have demonstrated their position in Christ (cf. v. 8).

Conclusion Oh, blessed be God – the Conqueror, the Judge, the King is our everlasting Friend by grace through faith. We are safe in Him. On the contrary, the hosts of earth shall quail (quake, tremble) and the stout hearts of the mighty shall stand appalled. Are you His friend or foe? The choice is yours. Amen.