



Revelation 19

(2019)

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Revelation 19.

Topics.

- God's, has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth.
 - Twenty-four elders and four living creatures worship God.
 - The marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready.
 - Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.
 - The faithful and True, sitting on a white horse judges and makes war.
 - The King of kings and the armies of heaven, strike down nations.
 - From his mount comes a sharp sword to strike down the nations.
 - On his robe and thigh is a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.
 - Come, gather for the great supper of God, to eat the flesh of kings.
 - The beast and kings make war against Christ and his army.
 - The rest were slain and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.
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A personal note: though I have always loved reading and studying the Scriptures and have now walked with Christ and in God's grace for around fifty years the following studies should not be taken to be dogmatic, inflexible or the final word on the matter since I am fully aware that my mind is limited by mortality and that greater understanding of God's revelation is continually becoming clearer before our eyes as we move closer to the time of Christ's glorious return in glory.

The previous chapter: began with an angel calling out, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!" For kings and nations committed immorality with her and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her wealth and the power of her luxurious living, and she said in her heart, "I sit as a queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall never see." John then heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, for her plagues will come in a single day for God has judged her. The chapter ended with a mighty angel taking up a stone like a great millstone and throwing it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence and will be found no more."

REVELATION 19:1-3

God's, has Judged the Great Prostitute Who Corrupted the Earth.

- **Revelation 19:1-3:** After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, ²for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants."
³Once more they cried out, "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever."

After this: (v1) the entire focus of the previous chapter is the fall of Babylon, which means the words, "after this," means after the fall of the Great city Babylon. (Rev. 18) symbolizing the worlds system of government, trade, finance and banking.

He has judged the great prostitute (whore in KJV): (v2) the power the great prostitute represents is the Papacy, the Pope, bishops, cardinals, clergy, priests and the false prophet, all false religions aligned to them and ecclesiastical organisations that have corrupted and distorted the Gospel or preach salvation by works. These corrupted the earth with their idolatry, pomp and hypocritical outward religious ceremonial practises and false teachings. (Rev. 17:1-2). The following verses show that the two identities, the great prostitute (great whore in KJV) and mystery: Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes, become intertwined with the governments of the world symbolized by Babylon and how greatly the Popes and other false religions influence the nations of the world, especially in the last days.

- The kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of the great prostitute sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk." (Rev. 17:2).
- The woman (the great prostitute) was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. ⁵And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." (Rev. 17:4-5).
- All nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her (Babylon the great) sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living." (Revelation 18:3).

During the Roman era the great prostitute (the Papal Church) drew the kings and inhabitants of the Roman empire into wicked and idolatrous practices, and has continued to promote her manmade doctrines and corrupt teachings worldwide and by her global earthly power and authority has influenced many kings of the world.

He has avenged on her (the great prostitute) the blood of his servants: (v2) this righteous judgment, brings great joy and praise to the faithful. The blood that had been shed refers to the millions of murders of God's people by the adulterous and apostate church and Babylon the great of the Old and New Testament. Idolatry and persecution of God's people are the great sins throughout this book, that provoke God to bring judgment upon the prostitute woman and Babylon the great.

- Rejoice over her (Babylon the great), O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her! (Rev. 18:20).
- In her (Babylon the great) was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth." (Rev. 18:24).

God passes a sentence of condemnation on the great prostitute woman full of abominations and all who she symbolises, and brings it about by putting it in the heart of the man of sin and lawlessness and the hearts of the ten horned beast nations to be of one mind to destroy her, according to the will of God. After this great destruction of the prostitute woman the man of sin and lawlessness pridefully and foolishly leads the ten horned beast nations against Christ and he destroys them with the breadth of his mouth. (Rev. 17:11-18).

- The lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. (2 Thess. 2:8)

His judgments are true and just: (v2) (true and righteous are his judgments in KJV) this carries the idea that God's judgments are true, just and righteous because:

- The calamities that come upon the wicked; the prostitute woman; the ten-horned beast; Babylon the great and the antichristian powers are deserved.
- God through His prophets clearly warned that these things would come and is now fulfilling what He had spoken.

- Being Holy and knowing all things God is perfectly able to judge, the great mother of harlots, the man of sin and lawlessness and all who set their heart upon Babylon the great and the antichristian beast nations.

It is because of these great judgements that the chapter begins with a great multitude in heaven, singing the triumphant joyful song, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God." In this heavenly chorus there is harmony between the redeemed and the angels. For further information concerning the power and influence of the Papal Church, the Pope and the Vatican click or tap [Topics in Revelation](#) and select the title: Papal Church, the Pope and the Vatican.

REVELATION 19:4

Twenty-Four Elders and Four Living Creatures Worship God.

- **Revelation 19:4:** And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!" (Alleluia in KJV). ⁵And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great."

Twenty-four elders: elders are called elders because it was common for them to have great faithfulness, wisdom, knowledge, authority, responsibility and devotion to God. We know these elders are not angels, for they are said to be redeemed by the blood of Christ and Paul tells us that the household of God is built upon the foundation of the prophets and the apostles with Christ being the cornerstone. (Ephes. 2:19-22). This means that the twenty-four elders most likely embrace the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve apostles and symbolise the whole global church made up of Jews and Gentiles in Christ. In these visions of of future things to come John sees the twenty-four elders in heaven from the time he was called up to heaven to the time the Bride appears ready for the Lamb. During all this time the church is still on earth which supports the idea that the twenty-four elders most likely signify in vision form the twelve heads of the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve apostles. Together these two groups symbolise the entire church of God made up of Jews and Gentiles from Adam to Christ's return and show that no matter what terrors, dread and calamities come upon earth the redeemed will be resurrected to heaven and surround God's throne and worship the Lamb with the heavenly host surrounded by the angels. Some suppose the twenty-four elders symbolise the twenty-four courses of Levite priests spoken of in the Old Testament, or those who sing the new song in Revelation or the whole universe ascribing power and dominion to God. There is nothing to be gained in debating who is right and who is wrong here since they all carry the same idea, which is that the twenty-four elders represent the complete Church of God in the past and in the future, in the Jewish and Gentile worlds; and as such represent all faithful spiritual successors as priests to God which is the Great United Church. The twenty-four elders reveal to John and to all who read these letters what God will to do in future times with His faithful church and show those who have been washed by the blood of the Lamb the eternal glory of their everlasting inheritance. The twenty-four are used to highlight to John the various stages that will take place on the earth, until the faithful are resurrected and Christ's government is established. They are first seen when John is called up to heaven in Revelation chapter four and last seen in Revelation chapter nineteen when John sees the Bride who has made herself ready for her Groom. For greater detail of the twenty-four elders, click or tap [Topics in Revelation](#) and select the title: Twenty-Four Elders.

Who the four living creatures symbolize: (v4) one of the four living creatures gave the seven-golden vial/bowls to the seven angels (Rev. 15:7). These golden bowls were normally used for sweet smelling incense, but in the hands of this living creature are now filled with the wrath of God, which is about to be poured out upon the antichristian beast kingdoms in answer to the heartfelt prayer and cry of the faithful, "O

Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (Rev. 6:10). The fact it was one of the four living creatures that gives the seven vials of wrath to the angels (Rev. 15:7) shows that the four living creatures cannot be human ministers of the church on earth (as some suppose). In John's visions of future things to come the four living creatures are seen in heaven from the time John was called up to heaven (Rev. 4:1-11) to the time the Bride appears ready for the Lamb. (Rev. 19:4-7). During all this time the church is still on earth which means that the four living creatures most likely symbolise:

- Four figures that have great authority, outstanding power and influence and stand in the presence of the LORD forever, ready to carry out His will, plans and purposes.
- God's mighty power and omnipresence over the entire universe and the earth and His will and judgment being worked out on the nations and all creation.

Their six wings (Rev. 4:8) most likely symbolise strength of something (natural or spiritual) that carries a thing (good or bad) to its destination. There is one living creature on the north, east, south and west side of God's throne which signifies that their power, influence and calamities will affect the entire earth and not just part of it in the latter days. Being awe-inspiring creatures of splendour and wonder in vision form that worship God and the Lord Jesus Christ they inspire and encourage the church by showing that all things are in God's control and no matter what terrors, dread and calamities come upon earth the redeemed will be resurrected to heaven and stand before God's throne and worship the Lamb with the angels surrounding them. The King James Bible uses the word "beasts," while many modern Bibles use the word, "living creatures." Since the creatures have characteristics and appearances that beasts cannot have such as being full of eyes in front and behind and having the face of a man (Rev.4:6-8), the better translation is, "a living thing or living creature," especially since they are to be taken as symbols that represent heavenly things and not literal animals. It could be rightly stated, that God has given to all things an eternally righteous law that is averse to evil, and cannot be broken without consequences, which means that His wrath is the action of His righteous law against sin. For further information of the four living creatures click or tap [Topics in Revelation](#) and select the title: Four Living Creatures.

Praise our God, all you his servants: (v5) this song of praise here is different from the first song that the choir sang in verse one to three, its primary focus was upon the celebration of God's judgment on the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality and killed His faithful servants. Whereas this song is primarily focused upon praise toward God for the happy and glorious state of his church, the Bride and the marriage to the Lamb (v7) to live and reign with Christ a thousand years (more fully spoken of in the following chapter) which is about to take place because of God's judgment on the great prostitute.

Saying, "Amen Hallelujah!" (Alleluia in KJV): (v4) they fell-down and prostrated themselves, meaning they knelt face down before God. This was the usual position of worship, it symbolises humbleness and giving great honour to the one knelt before. The word, "Amen," here is expressive of their approval and praise of what God had done and of their joyful agreement to all that had occurred in the destruction of the great enemies of the church and in the downfall of the great prostitute woman and Babylon. The repetition of the word Hallelujah so many times shows the intenseness of joy of the heavenly choir in heaven as they looked upon the final triumph and great victory of the church.

REVELATION 19:6-7

The Marriage of the Lamb Has Come, and His Bride is Ready.

- **Revelation 19:6-7:** Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. ⁷Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory (honour in KJV), for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride (wife in KJV) has made herself ready.

The roar of many waters, the sound of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah," many waters, speak of multitudes of believers washed in the blood of the lamb, while the sound of the violent claps of mighty thunder which are sometimes so loud that their sound is heard in heaven and on earth, is a very fitting symbol to express the enormous overwhelming triumphant joy of rejoicing that will be heard when the Groom gathers the Bride to himself. These are the same voices heard in (Rev. 11:15) when the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory: (v7) all the faithful have many happy and good reasons to celebrate the triumph of truth and the Gospel and give Christ, their King and Lord of their righteousness honour and glory for their salvation, and celebrate with joyful rejoicing the destruction of his enemies and the establishment of God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice joy and peace on earth.

The marriage of the Lamb is come: (v7) the following verses show that the relationship of the Messiah to the church, is often represented by the image of marriage:

- Your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. ⁶For the LORD has called you like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God. (Isaiah 54:5-6).
- You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. ⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. (Isaiah 62:4-5).
- I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. ²⁰I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD. (Hosea 2:19-20).
- I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. (2 Cor. 11:2).

It is to be remembered, that the "great prostitute woman," which embraces the Vatican, its Pope, bishops, cardinals, etc., including all false religions aligned to it, and all ecclesiastical organisations that have corrupted and distorted the Gospel or preached salvation by works has previously been represented as a woman full of blasphemous names arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality with the name of:

- Mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations written on her forehead. (Revelation 17:3-5).

In contrast to this, the true victorious church is pictured as a pure Bride, the Lamb's wife and in her the final triumph and joyful marriage is pictured as being clothed in fine linen, bright and pure. (v8). The meaning is, that the church is now about to triumph and should rejoice as if she is already in permanent eternal union with her glorious Groom, Saviour and Lord.

The marriage of the Lamb is come: (v7) since the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, must come down out of heaven prepared as a bride adorned for her husband and all things must be made new for God to dwell with His people spoken of in the following chapter (Rev. 21:2-9), the statement,

"the marriage of the Lamb is come," is easier to understand if it is read, "the marriage of the Lamb is coming," it is near, close at hand. The following seven events must take place prior to the marriage of the Lamb:

1. The Lord must return in glory and gather the faithful to himself.
2. The redeemed church, the heavenly Bride must be transfigured.
3. The harlot and the beast must be overthrown and Satan bound.
4. Christ's millennial reign on earth must begin.
5. The millennial reign must end and Satan rise-up for his last attempted overthrow.
6. Satan and all the enemies of Christ must be supernaturally destroyed by God.
7. Death, sea and Hades must give up the dead and the Great White Throne judgment must take place.

When all these events have come to pass the marriage of the Bride takes place and eternity begins in its picture-perfect wonder and its complete unadulterated perfect fulness.

His Bride (wife in KJV) has made herself ready: (v7) the following verses shine a light upon the symbolism of the heavenly Groom and his Bride. Jesus said:

- The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, (Matt. 22:2), but at midnight there was a cry, "Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him," (Matt. 25:6) and while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. (Matthew 25:10).

The apostle Paul wrote:

- I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. (2 Cor. 11:2).

Perfect union with God Himself and His Holiness is included in this symbol of marriage. The heavenly Bride, the transfigured, translated, and risen faithful church will reign over the earth with Christ. In contrast to the great prostitute woman who divides her affections amongst many lovers, the Bride gives her affections exclusively to Christ. The Bride (wife in KJV) has made herself ready (v7), by putting on beautiful garments, which are, faith in Christ and trust in God's grace, and integrity, honesty, love, kindness, compassion, forgiveness and such like things. When the church adorns herself with these ornaments and garments, she is recognized as Christ's beautiful Bride. During the papal supremacy the great prostitute church adorned herself in purple and scarlet and with gold and jewels and pearls (Rev. 17:3-4) and was abandoned by the Groom. In contrast to this, the true church adorned herself with humility, modestly, honesty and integrity and by faith put on the robe of Christ's righteousness the true wedding garment provided for her by her husband and was accepted by her Groom. The attitude of the Bride in her preparation for the marriage is a constant awareness that her acceptance is not based upon her own merits and works of righteousness, but upon the righteousness and grace of her husband. She did not purchase her own wedding dress, her husband purchased it for her with his own blood.

REVELATION 19:8

Christ's Bride Clothed in Fine Linen and Righteous Deeds.

- **Revelation 19:8:** it was granted her (Christ's Bride) to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

Here we are told that the Bride has clothed herself in righteous deeds, which refer to such things and good works, showing kindness and compassion to the less fortunate and the poor, sharing one's faith, and fulfilling Christ's command, "Love your neighbour as yourself," (Mark 12:31), meaning do good to others and not harm. James the brother of Jesus calls this the royal law (James 2:8) and states, "if we do this we are doing well," and Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote:

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10).

Paul shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that the spirit underpinning the law is love, because the spirit of the law is to protect the innocent from all types of harm and hurt, whoever keeps the law of love will do no wrong to a neighbour (neighbour embraces all mankind not just those in God's Kingdom). These righteous deeds are the fine linen of the faithful and outwardly evidence those who belong to Christ. It should be highlighted here that though a person is clothed in such a beautiful garment, this garment of good deeds has no power to save a person to eternal life, but are works that should follow those in Christ, and those who do wear such a beautiful garment will be rewarded for it. However, good works cannot save, those who belong to Christ aim to keep the law not to get saved, but because it honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of Jesus and the Christian faith and because it is the right and loving thing to do. The fine linen that does lead to eternal life refers to the righteousness that believers obtain by faith and which brings about their justification through Christ their Redeemer. Paul speaks of this righteousness when he prayed that he would be:

- Found in Christ, not having a righteousness of his own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith. (Philip. 3:9).
- All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Rom. 3:24-26).

Righteousness would never have been the Brides, but for Christ without him she can do nothing to earn righteousness or make herself righteous before God. Jesus himself said:

- Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:4-5).

And the apostle Paul wrote:

- Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. (Philip. 3:8-10).

The prostitute church is pictured in Scripture as being arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold, jewels and pearls (Rev. 17:4) (Rev. 18:16). The true and faithful church is pictured as being clothed in pure white and fine linen. These two different types of clothing symbolise the character of the wearer. The more dazzling ostentatious and showy colours of the prostitutes' garments symbolise a character of religious outward works and hypocritical self-righteousness that looks holy on the outside, but is corrupt on the inside. In contrast to this the white fine linen the faithful church is clothed in, which is not so colourful or dazzling to

the eyes, symbolises, a character of humility, high moral, spiritual qualities and faithful trust in Christ's righteousness and not one's own self-righteousness. In almost all countries white been the usual colour of the bridal dress as an emblem of purity and innocence. In Scripture is symbolises the Bride being spotless and without blemish. The righteousness of the faithful is called the righteousness of Christ, because it is by his righteousness that God counts them as righteous and not by their own self-righteousness. The apostle Paul being fully aware of this great Gospel truth prayed that he would:

- Be found in Christ, not having a righteousness of his own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith (Philippians 3:9).

And that:

- The righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." (Romans 1:17).

This does not mean that we should not do all we can to live a righteous life, since doing so honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, but it does mean that if we trust in these deeds to save us we not only nullify all that Christ achieved for us on the bloodstained cross of Calvary, but also make his death count for nothing. Isaiah proclaimed:

- I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. (Isaiah 61:10).

And the apostle Paul wrote:

- The free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. (Romans 5:15).

It is by clothing herself in Christ's righteousness and in a character, that honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ that the Bride has been a good witness for the Lord. Jesus said:

- You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. (Matthew 7:16-18).

REVELATION 19:9

Blessed are all Invited to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

- **Revelation 19:9:** And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited (called in KJV) to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

The angel speaking could be one of the following, the voice from the throne:

- From the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great." (Rev. 19:5).

The angel that was with John all along, and showed him this revelation:

- The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John. (Revelation 1:1).

The angel that showed him the judgment of the great whore:

- Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters. (Revelation 17:1).

Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb: (v9) the King James Bible says, blessed, meaning happy are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. This is one of the six benedictions (blessings) of the book of Revelation, the first one being:

1. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. (Rev. 1:3).
2. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" (Rev. 14:13).
3. Blessed are those who are invited (called in KJV) to the marriage supper of the Lamb. (Rev19:9).
4. Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years. (Rev. 20:6).
5. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." (Rev. 22:7).
6. Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. (Rev. 22:14).

The idea of a marriage-supper or marriage festival, represents the happiness of heaven, when Jesus entered the temple (Matt. 21:23) he spoke a parable concerning marriage to the chief priests, the elders and the people saying:

- The kingdom of heaven can be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited (religious hypocrites) (v18) to the wedding feast, but they would not come. The master then said to his servants, "The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy, go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find." The servants then went out into the roads and gathered all who they found, both bad and good, so the wedding hall was filled with guests, for many are called, but few are chosen." (Matt. 22:1-14) (Luke 14:7-14).

The expression, "Many are called, but few are chosen," carries the following three ideas:

1. Many are called through the preaching of the Gospel, but only a few are chosen, because not all who the Gospel calls responds to its invitation and are therefore not accepted (i.e., not chosen).
2. Many hear the Gospel and many do responds to its invitation and are accepted (i.e., chosen), but many of those who do accept the Gospel call do not endure to the end, and are therefore not chosen to enter Christ's eternal Kingdom.
3. Many hear the Gospel and many do responds to its invitation and are accepted (i.e., chosen), but many of those who do accept the Gospel call live a religious hypocritical lifestyle that brings shame to God and a bad testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and are therefore not chosen to enter Christ's eternal Kingdom.

The bridal dress: in contrast to the mother of prostitutes dressed in hypocritical religious robes of purple, scarlet red and adorned with gold, jewels and pearls (Rev. 17:4) the Bride is clothed in fine linen, clean and white, symbolising the robes of Christ's righteousness, imputed upon the redeemed for justification, and righteousness, which is the robes of Christ's righteousness, imputed to her for justification and redemption.

The celebration of the engagement to marry: the beginning of the glorious millennium (i.e., the reign of Christ for a thousand years on earth) may be considered as the celebration of the Grooms engagement to marry his beloved Bride on earth, while the end of the millennial age can be viewed as bringing about the marriage of Christ to his Bride his

delight and his beloved. Prior to Christ's millennial reign the redeemed church has only known him by faith as her Groom and Christ has only spiritually known his Bride. The beginning of the glorious millennium reign of Christ on earth may be considered as the celebration of his literal engagement and courtship to his Bride and taking her to his heart on earth, and the end of the millennium reign as bringing about the literal marriage of the Bride to her Groom on earth at which time the fullness of this intimate relationship will be completed.

These are the true words of God: (v9) it could be rightly said that the angel was the voice of God, since he was speaking the words of God. These visions and revelations are to be regarded by John and all who read them as God's declarations of absolute truth that will be surely fulfilled.

REVELATION 19:10

Worship God. For the Testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy.

- **Revelation 19:10:** Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

John fell-down at the angels' feet to worship him as he also did before the angel that showed him these things in (Rev. 22:8-9) and was also told, "You must not do that!" After having seen such amazing truths, visions and revelations revealed to him and seeing the glory of the new Jerusalem and such a triumphant and victorious end for the redeemed church John's natural impulse was to fall upon the ground in the posture of adoration and humbleness. Falling-down in this manner to pay honour to those considered superior was a common custom in Eastern countries and amongst the early church. The angel said, "Do it not." John being the apostle of love and with Jesus while he walked on earth, would have known that it was forbidden to worship any other creature other than Jesus and his heavenly Father and that such worship would be considered idolatry. However, when it is considered that this was the angel of Jesus and spoke the words of Jesus, and it is also very possible that he appeared in some heavenly majestic form and likeness to John as Jesus it is easy to understand how he would be somewhat confused. Everyone confessing faith in Christ should take the angels words, "you must not do that," as a powerful warning not to worship:

- Angels or any other majestic creature or animal (as some in pagan cults do).
- The Pope and the Virgin Mary or the bread in the eucharist (believed to turn into the literal flesh of Christ).
- Departed believers that have been exalted as saints; ministers and preachers that have great gifts and talents; oratory skills and global congregations.

The angel quickly corrected John's mistaken identity telling him not to worship him, but God alone, this should be taken to mean the Jesus himself should not be worshipped, we know this for Mary Magdalene, the other Mary and the eleven disciples all worshipped Jesus without any rebuke or being told they must not worship him. (Matt. 28:9-10) (Matt. 28:17-20).

I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers: (v10) this was an angel, yet he speaks of himself as a fellow-servant of John, meaning he was engaged in the service and work of the same God to advance the same cause, and to honour the same Redeemer. This shines a spotlight upon the truth that we are working together with the angels to bring about the fulfillment of God's eternal plans and purposes. In the Book of Hebrews, it is stated that God said the angels are:

- All ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? (Heb. 1:1-14).

Even though the angel was far more powerful to John in nature and power, he was his equal in service to God. This should give all the faithful great encouragement, since it means that it matters not if we are a believer faithfully doing the mundane duties in service to God or a believer preaching to a congregation of thousands, God counts both equal in service. Since proclaiming the Gospel is about delivering sinners from death to life and extending the Kingdom of Christ. Whether angel or believer we are all engaged in the same work.

The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy: (v10) the spirit of prophecy (Rev. 19:10) embraces the apostle's work and the spread of the Gospel in the world, the revelation of Jesus which embraces all that is written concerning him (Rev. 1:1).and all the visions that John saw in this book of Revelation (Rev. 1:2) for all these things testify of Jesus in that they give evidence and bear witness of him and confirm in a glorious and majestic manner Jesus's divine mission, to all that he claims to be. It refers to any teaching concerning the ministry and character; the purpose and work; the grace and salvation; the death and resurrection and the love and glory of Jesus. The word prophecy in this context is used in the sense of making known, God's will, purposes and plans, whether it be by angels, apostles, ministers, preachers or teachers or common and faithful believers who bear witness to the Saviour. The angel here shines a spotlight on a universal Christian truth to John, that no one engaged in the service of Christ should claim adoration from others or consider themselves superior, for all angels and faithful, prophets, apostles, ministers, preachers, laypeople who share the Good News of Jesus, his word and revelations should all consider themselves equal fellow servants, in the service of the Lord, since it is the same spirit that is in the angel, the prophet, the minister, the preacher and faithful believers that is in all who promote Christ's name, his salvation, his Gospel and his Kingdom. Though the purpose of prophecy is to bear testimony to Jesus, it does not mean that this is the only purpose of prophecy, but it does mean that Christ is at the end of all prophecy and the ultimate and perfect fulfilment of it.

Worship God: (v10) the single act of worshipping and praising God unites together believers in Christ, the angels, the Lord Jesus Christ and all the host of heaven in unity and love with God the heavenly Father. This single verse should not be used to exclude worship of the Son, who all the angels are called upon to worship. The following verses show that during Jesus earthly ministry, he allowed himself to be worshiped: -

- Those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." (Matt. 14:33).
- Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. (John 9:35-38).

There is not a single case where Jesus ever rebuke those that worshiped him and in contrast to Peter who refused to be worshipped, there is not one verse that suggests that Jesus was unworthy of worship.

- When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. ²⁶But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am a man." (Acts 10:25-26).

Unlike Christ who never rebuked anyone for worshipping him, Peter immediately stops a man from worshipping him. The writer of Hebrews verifies that all of the angels should worship Christ.

- Jesus, becoming much superior to angels as the name he has inherited (i.e., Son of God) is more excellent than theirs. ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? ⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." (Heb. 1:4-6).

Since angels' worship Christ and we are lower than the angels (Heb. 2:7), it follows that worship of the Lord is entirely appropriate. In the following verse Jesus is given the same sort of adoration and worship as his heavenly Father.

- I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" (Rev. 5:13).

Paul explicitly states that Christ is so exalted that, in his name every knee should bow and every tongue confess that he is Lord

- At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:10-11).

In this context the reference to bowing the knee is an allusion to worship as the following verses show.

- By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.' (Isaiah 45:23).
- But what is God's reply to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." (Romans 11:4).

Clearly, Christ is worthy of worship, anyone who says otherwise is in error. The angels statement, "Worship God," carries the idea that all creatures on earth and in heaven, angels, the Holy Spirit and men, things living and lifeless, and images made of these things, the elements of bread and wine in the Catholic Eucharist (communion) believed to turn to the literal flesh and blood of Jesus and departed believers exalted as heavenly saints should never be elevated in the heart and the mind to such an exalted status that they are worshipped.

REVELATION 19:11

The Faithful and True, sits on a White Horse Makes War.

- **Revelation 19:11:** Then 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.

I saw heaven opened, not literally, but visionally, as in the following verse:

- I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." (Rev. 4:1).

Here in chapter four John saw a door of heaven opened (Rev. 4:1) now he sees all of heaven opened as if an opening were made through the sky, and John was permitted to look, into heaven, this signifies a new vision.

The white horse: upon which Christ rides is an emblem of Christ's justice and holiness, and the purity of the Gospel and his final success, victory and triumph over the beast and the false prophet and of the final triumph of the church over all here enemies. The white horse and its rider is first seen in chapter six wearing only one crown and now here in this chapter he is seen wearing many crowns. The word crown in chapter six comes from the Greek word (*stephanos*) and refers to the garland or wreath a conqueror wore. In this chapter the word crown comes from the Greek word (*diademata*), which is not a simple crown of wreaths, but a crown of royalty.

Amongst commentators there are three differing scenarios concerning this white horse and its rider, since all three have valid points we will look at each one separately.

1. The white horse and its rider are an emblem of Roman conquest and victory, as the next rider on the red horse represents war (Rev.6:2) and of all following future secular kings and rulers (symbolised by the stephanos or wreath a conqueror wore) who continue to conquer kingdoms and nations through war until Christ returns on his white horse as King of kings and Lord of lords. (Rev. 19:11-15). This idea is certainly in harmony with the continuing history that followed the Roman Empire since every following generation has been marked by conquests, wars, bloodshed, famines and pestilence. The rider is armed with a bow (a symbol of weapons of war, but not total victory), the expectation is that war, famine, death and pestilence would continue until the true King comes (Rev. 19:11-16) and destroys the ten-horned beast, the antichrist system and the prostitute woman who corrupted the world and deceived nations by her sexual immorality. The white horse signifies the strong, warlike, and conquering state of the Roman empire, and the rider with a bow and crown refers to one of its renowned Emperors crowned with great power and authority who not only went forth conquering kingdoms, towns and villages and subduing all people to submit to the rule of Rome, but also one that persecuted Christians with great cruelty and aggressively set about to destroy churches and the Christian faith. Prophetically and by extension this can also refer to a future king or world ruler of the same character, power and authority who rises-up in the latter days.

2. The white horse and its rider first going out in (Rev. 6:2) symbolises Christ first going out with the Gospel, symbolised by the stephanos or wreath a conqueror wore, since he hasn't yet go the final triumphant victory, during an age of great persecution to the Christian faith, whereas the white horse and its rider seen now in this later vision signifies the swift progress of the Gospel in the latter days and the majesty, power, and authority with which it will come, when the lawless one is revealed, who the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming (2 Thess. 2:8). The return of Christ in glory will crush all hostile opposition made against him at the battle of Armageddon and bring about his final triumphant victory symbolised by the many crowns he now wears. Upon the opening of the:

- First seal a rider on a white horse comes out conquering and to conquer. (Revelation 6:2).
- Second seal takes peace from the earth. (Rev. 6:4).
- Third seal brought great famine. (Rev. 6:5).
- Fourth seal bought death. (Rev. 6:8).
- Fifth seal those slain for the word of God cry how long before God will avenge their blood, they were given white robes and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants is complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been. (Rev. 6: 9-11).
- Sixth seal the great day of wrath comes. (Rev. 6:12-17).

The idea in this scenario is that Christ first came with the Gospel and afterward he was killed and those who proclaimed the Gospel were greatly persecution and put death, but despite this great opposition to the church and the Gospel it prevailed through death, wars and famine and now Christ returns on the white horse, but this time not as a Lamb to be slaughtered, but as a king to bring to victory and triumph the work that he started.

3. When Jesus first came he humbled himself and rode in on a donkey, a beast of burden (Matt. 21:1-7) as the Lamb of God to be slaughtered (symbolised by the stephanos or wreath a conqueror wore) Now he comes as King of kings and Lord of lords (symbolised by the many crowns he now wears). The horse was an animal used for war, while

the donkey is an animal of peace. Jesus riding into Jerusalem on the donkey was the beginning of His reign in Jerusalem over the earth, as the Prince of peace, after all hostile powers have been overthrown. When world powers, and the distress of Christ's people have reached their highest point, the Lord Jesus will visibly appear in glory from heaven to put an end to the whole corrupt course of the world, and establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth. He will come with vengeance to judge and destroy the strongest antichristian world powers, and to gather his redeemed church to rule with him over the world. When Jesus disciples asked him, "What will be the sign of his coming and of the close of the age?" He answered them saying:

- As the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (Matt 24:27).
- As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (Matt 24:37).
- They were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (Matt 24:39).

And the final judgment:

- When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. (Matt. 25:31).

These verses (there are many others) show that powerful phenomena will accompany Christ's glorious arrival. The remaining part of this chapter (19) more fully opens what will come to pass under the events of the sixth and seventh vial, bowls of wrath, spoken of in the following verses:

- The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east (Rev. 16:12) and the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" (Rev. 16:17).

And more specifically the battle in Armageddon, mentioned in the following verse:

- They assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. (Rev. 16:16).

Here in chapter sixteen it only mentions the armies' being gathered together; and now in the remainder of this chapter (19) the battle to take place in the region called Armageddon it is more fully described. At the beginning of the Gospel, John only saw a door opened in heaven (Rev. 4:1), at the resurrection of the witnesses, he saw the temple opened (Rev. 11:19) and here, after the ruin of the ten-horned beast, the two-horned beast, the great prostitute (whore in KJV) and Babylon the great (chapters 17-19) he sees heaven fully opened (Rev. 19:11). Many paid little regard to Christ when he first came meek and lowly, riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, but at the end of our age the meek and lowly Saviour who was first seen riding a donkey into Jerusalem, will at the end ride as a mighty warrior into God's beloved city to save his people and establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth. There is no point in debating over which of these three scenarios is the correct one, since all can apply at different times in history and it is certainly true that wars, bloodshed, pestilence, famine and the Gospel will prevail until Christ returns to gather his people to himself and establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

The name of the rider on the white horse is Faithful and True: (v11) Christ is not titled here by his real name, but by his attributes, which embraces, loyalty, trustworthiness and dependability to satisfy every genuine and lawful desire and hope in the hearts of his people and the power to keep what he had promised and perform all his judgments in righteousness and perfect justice without partiality, bias, prejudice and favouritism. These are all dominating attributes of Christ's character,

summed up in the words, faithful and true. He is faithful and true to God, who appointed him to be the leader and commander of His people to accomplish all the glorious things spoken of concerning the church and her spiritual and everlasting happy state in the latter day. He is the true and faithful heavenly, judge who knows all things and will rule over all things with true justice, love and grace.

In righteousness he judges and makes war: (v11) this bridegroom warrior carries us back to the following words of Psalm forty-five.

- Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one, in your splendor and majesty! ⁴In your majesty ride out victoriously for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness; let your right hand teach you awesome deeds! (Psalm 45:3-4).
- All glorious is the princess in her chamber, with robes interwoven with gold. ¹⁴In many-colored robes she is led to the king, with her virgin companions following behind her. (Psalm 45:13-14).
- I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise you forever and ever. (Psalm 45:17).

This Psalm carries a similar combination of marriage, joy and warlike triumph and in it, righteousness marks the king's progress in war and faithfulness is manifested towards those who trust Him. The great prophet Isaiah wrote:

- With righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. (Isaiah 11:4-5).

History has shown us that war, conflict, confusion and the passions of men continually war against one another and against God and His laws from generation to generation. The history of the world is written in blood and cruel and desolating wars, and the earth groans because of its manifold troubles and pain. Some may wonder, "Why does a righteous ruler allow these heart-breaking scenes, and ask, "Where is he who permits all this, if these sorrows grieve us so deeply, do they grieve him?" The answer is of course a resounding, "Yes," but now God's judgment is delayed, it could be rightly said that at this present time we are living in the long day of death and the long day of grace. However, at God's appointed time, the righteous King will come and judge in righteousness and makes war. At the end of mankind's history, the righteousness of God will be revealed for all to see; but for now, the just must live by faith in the King who is faithful and true, and who preserves those that are faithful to him and keeps them for eternal salvation.

In righteousness he judges and makes war: (v11) meaning the war which he wages is not a war of ambition; nor is it for the mere purpose of conquest; but to save the righteous, and to judge and punish the wicked.

- His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. (Isaiah 11:3-5).

The victory is won without the engagement of a battle for what struggle can there be between mortal men and the eternal descended Christ the King of kings and Lord of lords especially since he has all the power of his heavenly Father supporting him.

REVELATION 19:12-13

His Eyes are Like a Flame of Fire and On His Head, Many Diadems.

- **Revelation 19:12-13:** His 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.

We first read of Christ having eyes like flame of fire in (Rev. 1:14), eyes like a flame of fire, signify the following two things:

1. The fierceness of Christ's wrath against all evil and wickedness and against all hostility and cruelty that his enemies had inflicted on his people.
2. Christ's spiritual ability to perceive the secret motives, schemes and hidden intents of the heart and mind.

On his head are many diadems (crowns in KJV): (v12) the word crown comes from the Greek word (*diadema*), it carries the idea of being bound about the head, and refers to a royal crown that kings wear. (Rev. 19:16). Many crowns carry the idea Christ rules over all nations of the earth.

He has a name written that no one knows but himself: (v12) first, we are told that he has a name written that no one knows but himself, immediately following this the next verse states, that he is called by the name, "The Word of God," (i.e., the Logos of God). It is used to denote the higher and divine nature of the Saviour. He is the Logos of God in that he not only perfectly revealed God's will and His eternal plans, purposes and revelations, but also perfectly manifested God's love, grace and character and His miraculous power over creation (i.e., he walked on water, created fish and bread to feed thousands, calmed the storm, healed many and raised the dead).

Jesus while on earth perfectly revealed God's eternal plan for mankind's Salvation, the eternal future of the faithful and for the earth and all who dwell on it, this, is why he is given the title, "The Word of God." He has a name written that no one knows but himself, may also carry the following idea, he has a name that only he could fully understand its divine significance and the full depth of its heavenly meaning, especially since his name embraces a sacred relationship to the Father, which only he alone could truly know the fulness of such a heavenly union. Jesus himself said:

- All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. (Matt. 11:27).
- Who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. (1 Cor. 2:11).

The statement, "no one knows his name, but himself" does not literally mean that no one knows his name, but carries the idea that no one knows fully what his name embraces, in that we cannot fully comprehend his thoughts or perfectly know the fulness of his eternal Spirit. In John's letters we read:

- Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. (1 John 3:2).

He knows our names, our thoughts, intentions and the motives of our hearts and all that we are, but no-one can exhaust the fulness and depth of his eternal Spirit or fathom the height, the breadth and the depth of his love. The sense is, that his divine nature, in which he is the Son of God, and the begetting of him and his heavenly eternal Spirit, power and perfections is incomprehensible to our mortal minds.

He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood: (v13) signifying his own blood by which he purchased his power as Saviour and mediator of the world and the blood of his conquered enemies, alluded to in the following verse:

- Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress? ³"I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel. (Isaiah 63:2-3).
- He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty (Rev. 19:15).

The blood on his robe: refers to:

- His own blood shed for all the world, even those who trample on it, and by doing so bring the wrath of God upon themselves in righteous and just retribution.
- The blood of the faithful martyrs, who have been slain for their faith with which he appears as stained with.

The statement, "his robe was dipped in blood," maybe taken from those treading out grapes in a winepress, whose garments became deeply stained with the blood of grapes spoken of in the following verse: -

- From 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. Rev. 19:15

Christ came first to shed his own blood so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16), but he is also coming in glory to destroy all evil and those who destroy the earth (i.e., to tread the winepress of the wrath of God), so to picture him in a blood-red vesture during this work is a fit token for the day of judgment.

NOTE: though the language of warfare is used here, there will be no war, since the eternal resurrected Christ is returning in glory with all the power of God, and is not coming as a lamb to be slaughtered, but a King to conquer. The Scriptures state: when the lawless one is revealed; the Lord Jesus will kill with him with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. (2 Thess. 2:8). This means that Jesus will speak the word and call some type of supernatural force down upon all those gathered with the man of sin and lawlessness against him. We know when Korah Dathan and Abiram rose-up against Moses, the LORD created something new. As soon Moses had finished speaking the ground opened its mouth and swallowed them up and they and all the rebellious group with them went down alive into Sheol and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly. (Num. 16:30-33). It is highly likely that the Lord himself will create something new that supernaturally destroys those gathered against him, especially since the following verse says, "From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations." (v15).

REVELATION 19:14

The King of Kings and the Armies of Heaven, Strike down Nations.

- **Revelation 19:14:** And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure (clean in KJV), were following him on white horses.

Christ's heavenly armies are seen riding upon horses the same colour as his, these white horses are emblems of:

- Triumph and victory (Rev. 6:2), and justice and holiness.
- Prophecy going forward and being fulfilled with success and victory.
- Christ word and the Gospel, going out to all nations in triumph.

Some limit these armies to angels, but angels do not need horses to ride on nor do they need to be pictured in white linen since they have never been redeemed from sin, added to this the following verse shows that fine linen signifies the righteousness of the redeemed:

- It, was granted her (the Bride) to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure," for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. (Rev. 19:8).

The following verse clearly shows that this army will include angels.

- God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels. (2 Thess. 1:6-7).

This shows that it is an error to limit these heavenly armies to angels only, in the same way that they rejoice in the salvation of the redeemed they will share in the triumph and joyful victory of those who have endured in faith to the end, and fought the good fight of faith.

- They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful." (Revelation 17:14).

The horses upon which they are seated and the garments they wear are pure white, symbolising righteousness. The triumph here is the triumph of righteousness over wickedness and of Christ's Kingdom over the kingdom of this world.

The armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure: (v14) refer to the resurrected redeemed who Christ will bring with him when he returns in glory:

- They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful." (Revelation 17:14).

Enoch prophesied, saying:

- Behold, the Lord came with ten thousands of his holy ones, ¹⁵to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." (Jude 1:14-15).

In the book of Revelation, we read of the heavenly host praising Jesus for the people from every tribe and language and people and nation, who he had ransomed for God by his blood, and then we read:

- He has made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."
¹¹Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,
¹²saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" (Rev. 5:8-12).

Those who belong to Christ will be resurrected in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5-6) and return as kings and priest to God with Christ and his angels to bring judgment upon the man of sin and lawlessness and the antichristian nations on earth, which will prepare the way for Christ to set-up his holy government in God's Holy City Jerusalem and appoint godly governments throughout the nations to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth. The great difference between the rule and reign of Christ and his government to that of worldly governments, is that Christ and his government well rule from a heartfelt passion for what is right and the happiness of all and not from selfish ambition or for their own fame and financial advantage and gain. Justice will be true and show no favour to anyone regardless of their status in life, and instead of the nation's taxes being spent upon weapons of war they well be spent on farming equipment and enhancing the well-being of our planet.

Arrayed in fine linen, white and pure (clean in KJV): (v14) being clothed in white garments signifies that those clothed in them are not only holy and purely righteous, but also fully accepted and considered as being worthy and most glorious by God, by Christ and by all the heavenly host. It should be highlighted here that prior to our resurrection to eternal glory,

not one of us is counted by God as being righteous according to our own works and religious deeds, but according to Christ's righteousness. We are made white by being washed in the blood of the Lamb, and by our faith in Christ. God sees us clothed in his robe of righteousness which is pure and spotless and not our unrighteousness or self-righteousness.

REVELATION 19:15

From His Mount comes a Sharp Sword to Strike down the Nations.

- **Revelation 19:15:** From his mouth comes a sharp sword (goes a sharp sword in KJV) 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.

There are many verses that speak of a sharp sword going out from the mouth of Jesus, it is a symbol of Christ word (Ephes. 6:17), the expression, signifies that his word has the authority and power:

- To avenging his people (2 Thess. 2:8) and separate the just from the unjust and the poor from the wicked (Isaiah 11:4).
- To execute justice on his enemies and strike down the nations in righteousness. (Isaiah 11:4).
- To destroy the wicked and the lawless one (man of sin in KJV) (Isaiah 11:3-4) (2 Thess. 2:8) and nations that are hostile to God. (Revelation 2:25-27).
- To smite antichrists and deceivers that deny that Jesus is the Christ, and deny the Father and the Son and deny that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. (1 John 2:18) (1 John 2:22) (1 John 4:3 2) (John 1:7).
- To discern the intents and motivations of the heart and the thoughts of the mind and save to eternal life or condemn to the lake of fire. (Hebrews 4:12-13).

The sharp sword that goes out of the mouth of Christ in this context of this chapter is not the sword of the Gospel, but his word of judgment, for it is now time for treading out the winepress of God's wrath and not the time of salvation.

In Psalm chapter two we read: the kings and rulers of the earth stand in hostile aggressive rebellion against God and against His anointed, the Lord Jesus Christ, intending to destroy Christ's Kingdom, in response to their extreme rebellion and foolishness, God says, that He will terrify them in his wrath and set His King on Zion, His holy hill who will break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel and inherit the ends of the earth for his possession. (Psalm 2:2-9).

He will rule them with a rod of iron: this refers to those nations that were not aligned with the beast empire of the man of lawlessness and who have not been slain by his sword of Christ's Spirit, but survived. These will form the nations that will bring their glory and honour into the holy city, new Jerusalem. (Rev. 21:24-26). Christ will rule the nations with authority as a strong King with a shepherd's heart and bring peace to earth in contrast to earthly kings who have misruled the earth and brought about its ruin.

He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty: (v15), this wrath is outwardly signified by Christ's blood-stained garments. This expression, carries the idea that Jesus will subdue even the proudest and strongest of his enemies with as much ease as men crush grapes by treading them under their feet.

This language is an allusion to the following verses:

- Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save." ²Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress? ³"I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel. ⁴For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and my year of redemption had come. (Isaiah 63:1-4).

It is also spoken of in Revelation chapter fourteen:

- The angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia. (Rev. 14:19-20).

The expression "tread the winepress of the wrath of God the Almighty," (v15), means that the man of sin and lawlessness and all nations aligned to him and all other enemies' hostile to Christ and his people will be crushed before him as easily as clusters of grapes that are ripe for picking are cast into a vat and trodden under foot until utterly crushed with only red juice remaining.

REVELATION 19:16

On His Robe and Thigh the Name, King of kings and Lord of lords.

- **Revelation 19:16:** On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

He has on his robe and on his thigh a name written: (v16) in ancient times the custom of inscribing the name or rank of distinguished individuals descriptive of their character on their garments, so that they might be readily recognized, was not uncommon. Having his name written on his robe is an allusion to the ancient custom of people of eminence and great kings, emperors and dignitaries in the eastern countries to have magnificent titles inscribed or interwoven with gold stitching into their garments. The thigh, being the strong part of the body symbolizes strength and power, but the symbolism does not stop here, it also symbolises, Christ's humanity and his divine and heavenly nature as the Son of God, since he came, after the flesh, being an ancestor of David through the Virgin Mary, and was conceived by the supernatural creative power of God's Spirit. Therefore, having the name King of kings and Lord of Lords written on his thigh symbolise his dominion over all those born again from above by the life changing power of the Holy Spirit and over all born of the flesh, which means, he is King over all mankind.

In the context of this vision the robe may be seen to be the cloak of a military captain that carries a sharp sword on his thigh whose cloak has blown back in the breeze to reveal the name, "King of kings and Lord of lords," on his thigh as he victoriously leads his mighty army to victory. In previous verses we read of Jesus having a name written that no one knows, but himself, and that he is called, "The Word of God" (v12-13), and now we read that he also has the name King of kings and Lord of lords written on his robe and thigh.

- The name written that no one knows, but himself: (v12) highlights the depth, breath and height of his divine Spirit and unconditional love and grace.
- The name: "The Word of God" (v13), highlights the truth that the messages he spoke are according to the will of God.

The name: King of kings and Lord of lords written on his robe and thigh, highlights.

- His authority and power, and shows that he had authority and dominion over all the monarchs, emperors, princes and kingdoms of the earth who rebelliously, vainly and unjustly attempted to acquire and establish the title for themselves.
- The victory of Christ's government and glory, despite the rebellion and defiance of all opposition.
- Christ the Saviour subduing us to himself by his love and subduing his enemies by his word, authority and power.
- Christ defending, protecting and keeping his people for salvation.
- Christ being the true supreme universal King over all people and nations upon the earth.
- Christ's sovereign power and authority now openly manifested to all.
- The perpetuity of Christ Kingdom on earth, and that his name, his dominion, his judgments, his government and his kingly government will be very noticeable to all dwelling on earth.

The name, "King of kings, and Lord of lords," means that Christ is the universal sovereign over all kings of the earth, and that all nobles and princes are under his control and dominion, a position that rightly belongs to the Son of God. The man of sin and lawlessness with the military might of the ten kings attempted to usurp the position of King of kings and Lord of lords, but instead are utterly-destroyed by the King they attempted to destroy. The greatest desire of the true King is that all would be saved to eternal life and everlasting happiness, second to that is to defend his people and destroy those who are hostile toward them and toward his heavenly Father.

REVELATION 19:17-18

Come, gather for the Great Supper of God, to Eat the Flesh of Kings.

- **Revelation 19:17-18:** Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, ¹⁸to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great."

Standing in the sun signifies standing in the brightest and most central and visible spot where one is bathed in the rays of the sunlight, the symbol of the divine presence to summon the birds of prey. The picture is of multitudes of wounded or dead soldiers of armies falling in the field of battle, surrounded by hungry birds of prey gathering together to feed on the flesh of their unburied bodies. This is not only a very apt description to depict the utter disdain God has toward the man of sin and lawlessness, the two-horned beast, the prostitute woman, and the ten-horned beast and all aligned to them, but also a very apt description to depict their final overthrow.

The pride, beauty and strength of the world empire and their systems of global government, finance, commerce and trade that they made so strong for themselves are at the end all proved to be worthless. At this present time the sharp two-edged sword, is not of steel, but of the Lord's word, going throughout every nation of the world saving sinners, but the time will come in the latter days when the same sword that saves will become a destroying sword that smites down and slays its enemies.

REVELATION 19:19-20

The Beast and Kings Make War against Christ and His Army.

- **Revelation 19:19-20:** And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.
²⁰And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs (miracles in KJV) by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.

The beast: (v19) refers to the man of sin and lawlessness as the head of the ten-horned beast nation's leading them against Christ. This army may be a confederacy of ten empires consisting of Western and Eastern nations and may embrace the Islamic nations. This is not about the great prostitute woman and all that she symbolises, since chapter seventeen we are told that the man of sin and lawlessness and the beast with ten horns will hate the great prostitute woman and make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, (Rev. 17:16-18), which means that God will use the man of sin and lawlessness and ten horn beast nations to bring His judgment upon the great prostitute woman.

The focus of this final war is the kings of the earth with their armies, which will embrace the man of sin and lawlessness, ten horn beast nations and all who they symbolize, and perhaps the Islamic nations and all others who consider Christ to be a threat to their religions, their empires, their power and their great wealth. Whatever nations are involved in this battle, it will be certain that when it has ended all the antichristian powers, secular, religious and ecclesiastical contrary to the Gospel of Christ will be crushed and brought to ruin and that those nations that do remain will be subdued and submit to the authority and reign of the Lord Jesus Christ the King of kings and Lord of lords.

The false prophet who had done signs: (v20) prior to this the title of this man was: "the two-horned beast like a lamb that spoke like a dragon," most suspect the reason for the change of title, is because after the man of sin and lawlessness and the ten-horned beast brought the great prostitute woman to ruin (Rev. 17:16-18) the ecclesiastical power was stripped of its authority and power that it had in its exalted days of pomp and grandeur. The statement, "The false prophet who had done signs," recalls to our minds John's vision of the beast rising out of the earth with two horns like a lamb that spoke like a dragon and by signs deceived the inhabitants of the earth into making an image of the first ten-horned beast and worshipping it. (Rev. 13:11-13). This does not necessarily mean that the false prophet is involved in this battle, but that his end will be the same as the beast, which is the lake of fire a symbol of eternal death. (i.e., total annihilation and utter extinction). For further information concerning the lake of fire click or tap [Death](#) and select the title: Lake of Fire. To attempt to make war against the rider on the white horse who has all the power of God available to him manifests the extreme pride, arrogance and madness of those, who rather than be influenced by the wisdom of God are influenced by the great dragon that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9). In the book of Thessalonians, it is written:

- The lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. (2 Thess. 2:8).

The general idea is, that the armies of the antichristian powers will be utterly-destroyed and that the Christ the King of kings and Lord of lord will be triumphantly victorious.

Those who had received the mark: (v20) refers to those who received a mark on their right hand or their forehead which is 666 the number of the name of the beast so that they could trade, buy and sell. (Rev. 13:16-18). This mark also identifies those who receive it with an alliance with the antichristian coalition whose entire goal is to prevent the spread of the Gospel and Christ's Kingdom being established, and is also connected with the worship of this antichristian beast. For further information concerning this mark click or tap [Topics in Revelation](#) and select the title: Mark of the Beast.

These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire: (v20), these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire, may refer to the ten-horned beast and the false prophet (i.e., the two-horned beast) only, or it may embrace the entire company of the two. It is not necessary to suppose that this is to be literally inflicted upon them, since the whole scene is symbolical, the idea is that the destruction of these powers will be as complete as if they were thrown into a lake burning with fire. In chapter fourteen we read:

- He (those who worship the beast its image and receives a mark) also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.
¹¹And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name." (Rev. 14:10-11).

There is no literal wine of God's wrath, nor is there a literal cup full of His wrath, this is symbolical language to highlight the God's hatred of sin. Likewise, it cannot be thought that the holy angels of God while standing in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, will throughout all eternity literally be looking upon thousands of humans in some, kind of spirit form, who are being forever burned with flames, and from extreme pain, screeching with ear-piercing screams of agony. Such a scene would be no joy to angels of Christ and make heaven more of a place of horror than a place of love, joy and peace. The writer is using biblical lofty language to highlight God's extreme disdain, contempt and scorn toward the false prophet, the beast and their company.

Sulphur and brimstone: (v20) Revelation chapter twenty tells us that the lake of fire that burns with fire and sulphur is the second death. (Rev. 21:8). Sulphur totally dissolves to nothing anything placed in it, many modern Bibles simply say fire. When the word Sulphur is added to the word fire it magnifies God's utter disdain for those in focus and their utter annihilation and destruction. This is the only Scripture in the entire Bible that could be taken to imply eternal torment, and it only mentions the devil, the beast and the false prophet being the tormented ones, not mankind. Biblical sacrifice offered up by fire to God are spoken of as being a sweet-smelling fragrance to the LORD, in total contrast to this sweet-smelling fragrance, burning sulphur and brimstone gives off a nauseous stench, that aggravates the nose and is therefore used here to highlight the extreme disdain God has toward the man of sin and lawlessness and the false prophet and all their company. The severe punishment of the man of sin and lawlessness and the false prophet is symbolised as the two being cast into a lake of fire, which signifies that the wrath of God, will be like fire, in that it will utterly consume the man of sin and lawlessness and the false prophet. The allusion seems to be to the place where Sodom and Gomorrah stood, which after God's wrath fell upon the cities, they become a sulphurous lake, and as such an emblem of eternal fire (Jude 1:7), which carries the idea of eternal death, meaning utter annihilation and total extinction (i.e., Sodom and Gomorrah were utterly-destroyed).

Thrown alive into the lake of fire: (v20) these two (the man of sin and lawlessness and the false prophet) are said to be "cast alive into the lake of fire," which carries the idea that prior to their death, they will be fully aware that God's judgment of eternal death (i.e., utter annihilation and total extinction) was about to fall upon them. Much like Korah and his rebellious company were fully aware, when the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, that it was an act of God's wrath being poured out upon them for their blatant rebellion against Moses. (Num. 16:31-33). This is the first mention of the lake of fire (Rev.19:20). In chapter twenty we read of the devil, the beast and the false prophet being thrown into it and being forever tormented day and night. (Rev. 20:10). From this verse and one other some have formed the doctrine of eternal torment in hell. But revelation chapter twenty, begins with John seeing an angel descending from heaven holding a key and a great chain and seizing a dragon and binding him up in prison for a thousand years. Obviously, angels do not need literal keys and chains to lock a dragon up in a bottomless pit (Rev. 20:1-3), the entire chapter is full of very symbolic

language which means that the words, "they will be tormented day and night forever and ever," (Rev. 20:10) cannot be used to establish a biblical doctrine, especially when the only other verse that speak of being tormented in such a manner is found in Revelation chapter fourteen which states that those who worship the beast and its image and receives its mark:

- Will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. (Rev. 14:10).

Obviously, God does not have a literal wine cup full of wrath, again this is very lofty language. The only two verse that imply eternal torment are surrounded with very lofty symbolic and figurative language. The proper principal for good Bible study is to never build a biblical doctrine off only two verses, especially when they are surrounded by symbolic language and do not harmonize with the character of God. The Bible says: God is love and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1 John 4:8) (1 John 4:16). These verses shine a brilliant spotlight upon the truth that God is not a God of torture (especially eternal torture), but that He is a God of love and being a God of love, He is also a God of justice and for this reason He has given mankind the following two choices:

1. Choose God and receive eternal life and everlasting glory.
2. Deny God and eternal death waits (i.e., total and utter annihilation and extinction).

The establishment of eternal torment: in the 325 A.D. when the Roman papal church had power over the state and certain bishops at the Council of Nicaea determined what the official doctrines of the Christian faith would be they then set about aggressively enforcing them onto society by torturing, imprisoning and burning at the stake those who held a different view to the doctrines they had officially stamped to be the only true doctrines of the Christian faith. One of these doctrines is the traditional teaching of hell that many believe today (i.e., eternal torture in hell for all eternity). This sadistic teaching of hell that proclaims all who die outside of Christ will in some form of conscious spirit state suffer eternal torture, pain and extreme agony in a place full demons and fiery flames for all eternity may have been introduced to scare people into the church. It is almost certain that this is one of the reasons it has continued throughout history and very rarely been questioned by ministers and leaders of certain churches. Those who formed this inhuman brutal and extremely violent teaching of eternal agony in flaming fire not only had a total lack of the meaning of the Greek word Hades (i.e., the grave), but also had a total lack of understanding the nature and character of God. When the bishops of the Roman Papal Church established the doctrine of eternal torment, they were influenced by the teachings of pagan religions that existed amongst them at that time. Whatever the reason and there are no-doubt many other possible scenarios the reality is that the Greek word Hades refers to mortal death in the grave. For further information click or tap [Death](#) and select the title: Torment and Tormented.

Who worshiped the image of the Beast: (Rev. 19:20) this does not necessarily mean that people will worship the beast as Christians attend a church service and worship God, nor is it a one-time act of worship, but implies an ongoing heart attitude of idolisation deeply seated in the inner-most-being. It carries the idea of exalting and esteeming the beast in the same way a person exalts and esteems an idol in their heart and mind.

REVELATION 19:21

The Rest were Slain and All the Birds were Gorged with their Flesh.

- **Revelation 19:21:** And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds (fowls in KJV) were gorged with their flesh.

The previous verse told us that the man of sin and lawlessness and the false prophet were captured and thrown into the lake of fire, which means, "the rest" in this verse refers to all others who were gathered with them against Christ and his army. The words that Christ spoke during his days on earth not only have power to give life, but also had power to change water to wine, create food from nothing (i.e., the loaves of bread and fish) and calm storms. Added to this when Judas came, with a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people and they seized him and one of those who were with him drew his sword and cut off the ear of a servant of the high priest, Jesus immediately told him to put his sword back into its place, for it was in his power to appeal to his heavenly Father, and He would at once send him more than twelve legions of angels. (Matt. 26:47-53). This means that though the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies will gather to make war against Christ and against his army (v19), there will be no war, for the Lord Jesus will kill them with the breath of his mouth and bring them to nothing by the appearance of his coming. (2 Thess. 2:8). The expression, "a sharp sword proceeded out of his mouth," carries the idea that the antichristian nations and their armies were brought to nothing by the word of the Son of God as if they had been slain by a sharp sword.

The birds (fowls in KJV) were gorged with their flesh: (v21) the prophetic graphic language used here to picture this horrific, appalling and gruesome scene depicts the utter disdain God has for those who would come up against his Son with such blatant prideful arrogance and rebellion. For further information see the notes under the title:

- Come, gather for the Great Supper of God, to Eat the Flesh of Kings." Following verse. (17-18) (above)

The beast, the kings of the earth and their armies stand with one hostile mind united against God's anointed Son the King of kings and Lord of lords, which the writer of Psalm two prophesied they would:

- Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 2The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his anointed, saying, 3"Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." (Psalm 2:1-3).

The Psalm goes on to say that the LORD has set His Son and His King on Zion, His holy hill and that he will break the nations with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel and the nations and the ends of the earth will be his possession. (Psalm 2:6-9). The Psalm then warns the kings of the earth to be wise and serve the LORD, with fear, and rejoicing lest by God's wrath they quickly perish in their corrupt ways. (Psalm 2:10-12).

AN OVERVIEW OF THE ENTIRE CHAPTER

The general idea here is, that these great anti-Christian powers which had for so long not only resisted the Gospel, but also hindered it from being spread over the earth, by shedding the blood of the faithful and by persecution and by corrupting and deceiving mankind from generation to generation, would be destroyed and subdued. The Gospel and Christ's true teachings would be so extremely triumphant, it would appear as if the Son of God had gone forth as a mighty warrior in his own power, and capture the antichristian leaders for punishment, and given up their armies to the birds of prey. The future destruction of these great enemies, prepares the way for the millennial reign of the Son of God as stated in the following chapter. The beast and the false prophet are cast into the lake of fire, which only leaves the great dragon the ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan (Rev. 20:3) the head and original source of all history's evil influences over mankind to be overthrown, defeated and brought into submission to prepare the way for the long-anticipated triumph of the Gospel. After which the thousand years' rest of the faithful, the resurrection of the dead, and the final judgment will follow.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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