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For the Joy...
Pastor David Dykes

INTRODUCTION

As we come to the exciting climax of this great prophecy, the book of Revelation is not over and what happens after this is not anticlimactic—it is simply post-climactic. We will be introduced to the millennium, the great white throne judgement and then to heaven, as we will know it for all eternity—the New Jerusalem.

Today I want to talk to you about, "The King Is Coming!" We're going to be looking in Revelation 19:11. The entire book of Revelation can be divided into three parts as it says in Revelation, 1:19 "Write the things which you have seen," that's the past the vision of Jesus "Write the things which are right now," the seven churches, which represent all the churches of all the ages and then beginning in chapter 4 of Revelation all the way to where we are tonight represents a prophecy of what's going to happen. We have looked at the seven years of Tribulation on the earth; where there were seven seals broken—each representing judgement. Seven trumpets were blown and seven bowls of wrath were poured out. Finally it comes to a climax and Jesus is going to return.

A lot of people get confused about the dual aspect of the return of Christ because some say, "I thought the Bible says that when Jesus comes back he's going to come back like a thief in the night, suddenly, silently, secretively." What we are studying tonight and elsewhere in the Bible says when he comes, he'll come in mighty power and every eye will see him. Which one is it? because it certainly can't be both. It IS both, because when Jesus comes to rapture the church—which could happen at any moment—he literally won't come to planet Earth. The Bible says we'll meet him in the clouds and all the true Christians will be caught up to be with Jesus. We'll be in heaven from that time all the way during the Tribulation and that's when he is coming silently, secretively, like a thief in the night but at the end of this Tribulation he will come like we are talking about today. This is when he is coming in power and might and majesty and every eye will see him.

Revelation 19:11-15: John says, "I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God."

I. THE APPEARANCE OF THE KING

The first thing I want you to notice is the appearance of the King. Who is this King who's coming? Without a doubt, he is the resurrected, ascended, glorified Lord Jesus Christ. He's identified in verse 16, "On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

1. Faithful and true

He is given three names to be identified. First, he is called "Faithful and True." What does that mean? In contrast, the Antichrist—the devil—is "unfaithful and false." Jesus Christ on the other

hand is faithful and he is true. Can you ever recall a time in your life when Jesus has been unfaithful to you? Can you ever remember a time when you tried to obey the Lord and you could say, "Lord you lied. You were not faithful in your promise." or have you ever come to a place in the Bible where you can say, "God, you are a liar and your word is not true?" I don't think you can because that is the very nature of Jesus Christ—he is faithful and he is true.

2. The Word of God

Look at the second name that he is given in verse 13. He is called "The Word of God." In Greek is the little phrase, "Tu logos, tu Thea" The logos, the word of God. How do I know for sure this is talking about Jesus? John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word [*logos*] and the word was with God and the word was God." Jesus is identified as the word the *logos* of God. John 1:14 says, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." This is Jesus who is called the *logos*, the word of God. What is a word? A word is simply something that gives tangibility to a concept to a thought. Let me demonstrate what I mean. Everybody listen to me I am thinking of something in my mind right now. I have a concept in my mind right now but does anybody in here know what that concept is? No but all I have to do is give you a word and suddenly when I give you that word, that concept you could not see becomes clear. The word is "giraffe." Did any of you know what that concept was? Did anybody guess it was a giraffe before I said giraffe? No. That's what a word is. A word gives you the ability to understand a concept and that's what Jesus is. You want to know what God is like? The word is Jesus. You want to know the nature of God? The word is Jesus. God said, "I want people on earth to understand my thinking my love my heart. I'm thinking about something and so I'm going to give them a word and the word is Jesus!" When you know Jesus, you know all there is to know about God himself, so he is the word of God.

3. King of Kings and Lord of Lords

He is also given a third name in verse 16. He is also called the King of all Kings and the Lord of all Lords. We are going to look a little bit later on in the chapter at the kings of the earth who are going to oppose him. Of all the kings he is the King of them; of all the masters, the lords he is Lord of all of them.

4. Eyes like fire

But notice what he looks like. We are talking about his appearance, not only his names. Look at his eyes it says in verse 12 that his eyes are like blazing fire. When you and I see Jesus both at the rapture and I believe at this time described here as well, don't imagine that you are going to see "gentle Jesus, meek and mild" or that you're going to see some fair-skinned, fair-haired, blue-eyed Galilean because we saw in chapter 1 that the glorified Christ has a radiance about his countenance that is brighter than the midday sun; his eyes are like flaming fire. That means when he looks at you, his gaze is so penetrating it's like his eyes are on fire and he's coming to make judgement.

5. Robe dipped in blood

Notice what he is wearing. "He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood." The word there is *baptizo*, "baptized." Haven't I told you before that the word *baptizo* means *to dip*? This is one of the places that it's translated instead of transliterated. It's a beautiful white robe, yet the corner of that robe has been dipped in blood. I think that is a symbol and a reminder to all of us that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins.

6. Riding a white horse

Now here comes the King seated on a white horse. I don't know if this is literal or this is symbolic, because to the Jewish and Roman mindset, a white stallion represented power and speed. Back in Jesus' time the fastest way to get from point A to point B was to hop on a strong horse and ride as fast as you could. It represented speed. When an army that had no horses faced an army made up of men on horses they were terrified because of these huge, powerful animals. So it signifies his power and the swiftness of his return. It's interesting that when Jesus came the first time he didn't ride a white horse. In fact when he entered into Jerusalem, wouldn't you expect him to be riding on some white stallion as was appropriate for a conquering general? But He was on a little donkey. That was his first coming. But when he comes the second time, he'll be coming in power and might.

II. THE ARMIES OF THE KING

Notice the armies of the King. Verse 14 says, "the armies (plural) of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean." When Jesus comes back, he's going to have armies following him, because we are heading to a battle. I don't know what those armies involve but because it's plural here I believe it's at least two parts of an army or two kinds of armies.

1. Angels

First of all I think it will be the army of angels. The army of angels because it does say in Matthew, 25:31 that "he'll bring his angels with him and he'll send his angels out into all the earth" so I think the angels will be a part of that army. By the way angels are not just sweet, cherubic creatures. The Bible says they are mighty warriors.

2. Saints

Not only will there be the angelic army, but there will be the army of saints. When you are raptured, you are caught up to be with Jesus in heaven. You'll be there for the seven years of the Tribulation. Throughout the book of Revelation, you and I are pictured in different symbols. First we are seen as the 24 elders around the throne, then in chapter 19 we are seen as the bride of Christ, the church. Suddenly we now become part of the army and you and I are going to be those who are on those horses following Jesus into battle! We're coming back with him!

You say, "That's a new idea to me! I've never heard of that before!" It's one of the oldest ideas in all of the Bible. Jude 14 says, "Enoch, the seventh from Adam," there were seven generations between Adam, the first man and Enoch. "Enoch prophesied about these men." The word

“prophesied” means he preached. So as far as we know, Enoch was the very first preacher in all of the Bible. Enoch said, “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” Do you think there needs to be a few more “ungodly’s” in there? It’s obvious: He’s coming to judge sin and you and I are part of this army of saints who are going to be following him.

I know what some of you are thinking right now “If it’s all the same to you and Jesus, I’m just going to stay up in heaven and I’m going to clean up the dishes from the marriage supper of the Lamb! Okay? I’ll clear the table! I don’t really care to be a part of this battle you are talking about. I’m in heaven everything’s great. I just want to stay up there for all eternity. You folks go right ahead into the battle!” There’s nothing to worry about because as we’re going to see in a moment it is going to be the world’s shortest battle. You won’t even have to have a weapon in your hand. You won’t have to be afraid it’s going to go off or something. You don’t know how to ride a horse? If this is literal, you will know how at that time. You’ll be like Jesus and he knows how and you’re going to be dressed up for battle. What are you going to put on to ride in the battle? Verse 14 It says, “dressed in fine linen, white and clean,” just like in verse 8. And here fine linen stands for the righteous acts—plural. The word “righteousness” here is in the plural form, if there is such a word, “righteousness-es.” It is the righteousness-es of the saints.

Let me tell you what you are going to be wearing. This is a great, great spiritual truth. When it comes to righteousness there are sort of two kinds of righteousness. It’s like garments. Most of you have on two kinds of clothes. I don’t want to get personal or anything but I think most of you here tonight have on some clothes we can’t see called under garments, underwear. That’s one kind. Then everybody has another kind of garment, outerwear. There is a great spiritual lesson here, because when it comes to the righteousness-es (plural) there are two kinds of robes we wear. There is the inner garment of righteousness that covers us completely and protects us—that is the imputed righteousness of Jesus. You are righteous because Jesus has given you his righteousness. That’s the under garment you can’t see. You can’t see that in me, that I have been made righteous through Jesus Christ, although I have. I can’t see it in you, but there’s an outer garment you ought to see that is understood to be the righteous deeds you performed. You are not saved by these good deeds, you are saved *unto* these good deeds, but those things you do in the power of the Lord, for the glory of the Lord—that’s the outer garment. So when you stand before the Lord, all of us are going to have that undergarment on but how much of an outer garment are you going to have? Are you going to be standing rather embarrassed before the Lord with nothing on but your underwear? Because you haven’t added to his imputed righteousness your practical righteousness. That’s what we’ll be wearing.

III. THE AUTHORITY OF THE KING

Consider the authority of the king. What kind of authority is Jesus going to assume? Verses 15-16 say, “Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron scepter.” It’s very important you understand that. “He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Now here comes Jesus and he's leading the armies but he doesn't have a sword in his hand, because the Bible says when he speaks, it's like a sword coming out of his mouth! And the Bible says that's true because in Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Jesus Christ always had power to speak and there would be authority and power. For instance, when Jesus was alive, there was a boat caught in a storm and Jesus stood up and he spoke. He said, "Peace! Be still!" and just like a sword out of his mouth swish, swish! It cut right through that storm! Suddenly the storm was dead. Whenever Jesus spoke to demons, he had that authority. That sword flashed out, swish, swish! They were destroyed, cast out!

One of my favorite verses in the Bible is in John 18:6 when Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before he was crucified. He was there praying all alone and here comes Judas the betrayer with all of these soldiers with swords and torches to arrest an innocent man, Jesus. And in the darkness they are not sure where Jesus is. As they approach it says in this verse Jesus said, "Who are you looking for?" And they stopped and said, "We are looking for Jesus of Nazareth." and I think Jesus gave them a little preview of what it's going to be like in Revelation 19, because this is what it says in John 18:6, he said, 'I am'" If you know anything about the Bible, you know there is great power in that confession! Only *God* can say that! The Bible says when he spoke those words, those men were knocked backwards! It was as if some physical force came against them and knocked them down. I can't do that can you? Sometimes you feel like you can, after you've had pizza and something pungent so when you speak you repel people, but that's not what happened with Jesus.

The Bible has always prophesied that the Messiah would have this authority to speak. In Isaiah 11:4 it says, "but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked!" So the only weapon that is going to be used is the word Jesus speaks, and the battle will be over.

IV. THE ADVERSARIES OF THE KING

Notice the adversaries of the King. There's going to be a battle, so who is going to oppose the King who comes? Verses 17-19. "And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, 'Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great.' Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army." We read earlier that they are going to gather at a place called Har-Magiddo—Armageddon, the mountain of Megiddo.

Isn't this amazing? Jesus Christ is going to come back and even as he is coming back the Antichrist and all of his cronies his generals all of his armies are going to be gathered there in the nation of Israel ready to fight against Israel and against God himself. Who is the motivator behind the Antichrist? It's Satan himself! The Bible says the Antichrist is Satan in the flesh just as Jesus was God in the flesh. Satan is going to literally possess this Antichrist. That's what

Satan has always been trying to do! He's always been trying to overthrow God. Do you remember back in the pre-creation time Isaiah 14 where Lucifer said, "I will be like the most high. I will ascend. I will make my throne in heaven. I'm going to overthrow you, God!" God said, "Oh, no you're not!" God just knocked him down and he lost his position as a highly favored angel and he has become the tempter, the accuser of the brethren, the liar, and we read earlier where he is also pictured as the dragon. He's going to be cast out of heaven and he's going to be let loose here on the earth during the Tribulation. He's going to be angry! And he is going to be able to deceive the people of earth to say, "All right this is what the Bible says but I still think we can overthrow Jesus! I still think we can win against God" and he's going to lead the nations of the world in a war against God.

Psalm 2 is referred to here in Revelation 19:15. Why do you think that the nations would try to overthrow God? Why do you think they would imagine a vain thing that they could cast themselves free from the shackles of God? In Psalm 2:1-2 we read what's going to happen. It says, "Why do the nations conspire and the people plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One."

I think this is a prophecy of Revelation 19, because it is quoted. "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters." The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them." God is going to say, "This is the funniest thing I have ever seen!" He thinks he can overthrow God. The creation thinks it's greater than the Creator! God says, "Never! NEVER will that happen!"

This spiritual warfare, this cosmic battle is not a close race. God's people aren't going to win with a last-second shot at the buzzer! It's not going to be close. The devil gets absolutely SKUNKED! He never even comes close. It says in Psalm 2:5 "Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, 'I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill!'" The adversaries are going to gather themselves against God, but God is going to laugh and say, "This is going to be a short battle!"

V. THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE KING

That leads us to the accomplishment of the King. What is Jesus going to accomplish when he comes back? Verse 20-21 says, "But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. The rest of them (these armies that gathered against God) were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh."

That's not a pretty picture but war never is pretty. This is what Jesus is going to accomplish. It's going to be history's shortest battle! I was reading this week that the shortest boxing match that ever took place only lasted five seconds. This old boy walked out into the ring, the other guy met him, popped him in the nose, and the guy fell out unconscious and the referee called the fight. Five seconds without even a ten second count. That's a pretty fast battle wouldn't you say? When I think about the great battles of the world, I think about how in Desert Storm that was an

amazingly swift victory wasn't it? From the time they actually attacked until their objective had been accomplished was 100 hours! That is the most amazing battle in modern warfare. Compare that with history. Remember what we used to study called the "Hundred Years War?" This was the Hundred Hour War. One hundred hours is going to seem like an eternity compared to the duration of this battle, because all Jesus has to do is speak and when he speaks that sword will go forth, swish swish! and that army will be absolutely decimated. Then, he's going to grab the Antichrist and the false prophet and toss them alive into the lake of fire. What is he going to say when he comes? I don't know. It could be "BOO" it could be "You believed a lie!" it could be "I am!" I don't know what he's going to say, but the Bible says all he has to do is speak and that sword's going to come forth and victory will be won.

What's going to happen after that? Here again if you think this is sort of weird, just read Billy Graham's book *Approaching Hoofbeats*. He and many reputable, respected Bible scholars also believe that immediately after this, Jesus Christ is going to set up a kingdom on earth that will last for one thousand years—a millennium—and we will reign with him on earth. When we get into chapter 20 that's what I'll talk about. The beautiful thing we need to see today is that Jesus Christ is always, ALWAYS victorious!

CONCLUSION

When I was in the Crimea two summers ago, the pastor at Yalta showed me a cartoon out of the newspaper, "Pravda," years before. It was a picture that described the haughty, arrogant, godless attitude of atheistic communism. It was a cartoon of Stalin climbing a ladder toward heaven. At the base of the ladder were the ruins of a broken-down church building with the round onion dome cracked and laying in ruins. Benjamin translated the caption. "Having destroyed this 'god business' here on earth, we are going to destroy it in heaven." That was the attitude of Stalin and Communism. It did my heart so much good to drive through Moscow after the fall of Communism and see on a pedestal where before there had been a statue of Joseph Stalin the statue had been removed and in its place was a cross. Man says, "Having destroyed God on earth, we'll destroy him in heaven!" and God says, "I am faithful and true!" the word of God who always wins!

OUTLINE

I. THE APPEARANCE OF THE KING (vs. 11-13)

1. Faithful and true
2. The Word of God
3. King of Kings and Lord of Lords
4. Eyes like fire
5. Robe dipped in blood
6. Riding a white horse

II. THE ARMIES OF THE KING (vs. 14)

1. Angels
2. Saints

III. THE AUTHORITY OF THE KING (vs. 15-16)

His weapon

IV. THE ADVERSARIES OF THE KING (vs. 17-19)

V. THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE KING (vs. 20-21)