



## Sermon Title: UNVEILED: Jesus in the Book of Revelation Part 4 – King of Kings

### **IN Opportunities to connect and pray as a group**

1. What experiences have you had riding a horse?
2. Which Bible book is your favorite?
3. What are others' opinions of Jesus that have come up in conversations?

### **UP Time that is devoted to the Word of God**

1. Pastor Ashwin's previous three sermons in the 'Unveiled' series are found at: [cschurch.ca/sermons/unveiled/](http://cschurch.ca/sermons/unveiled/)
  - The Exalted Christ – Revelations 1:9-20
  - The Lion and the Lamb – Revelations 5:1-14
  - The Dragon Slayer – Revelations 12:1-12Which of these descriptions of Jesus surprises you? Why?  
What impacted you the most of these messages/descriptions of Jesus?
2. "Let's not forget that our view of Jesus will deeply affect how we love our life. Whatever conception we have of Jesus will have an inevitable impact on the nitty-gritties of our living." (Pastor Ashwin)  
Do you agree with this statement? Why? Why not? Provide an example from your life.
3. Review the symbolism of the picture of Jesus in 19:11-16.  
Discuss them through the eyes of a 1<sup>st</sup> Century believer.  
What do the following represent?
  - He is riding a white horse (note the contrast with how He entered Jerusalem: Luke 19:30)
  - He is called 'Faithful and True'
  - His eyes are like blazing fire
  - On His head are many crowns
  - He has a name written on Him that no one knows
  - He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood and His name is the Word of God
  - He is followed by the armies of Heaven
  - Out of His mouth is a sharp swordWhich of these images stands out to you?
4. Pastor Ashwin commented that we believers are not called to take on worshippers of false gods in a physical battle. Christ followers don't advance the Kingdom of Jesus through physical warfare or force; that would be an insult to the work of Christ. How does 2 Corinthians 10:4 explain this attitude?
5. "With justice he judges and makes war" (Rev. 19:11b) is a phrase that is often overlooked (Pastor Ashwin). Why do we overemphasize God's love to the exclusion of His justice and judgment?
6. "We don't need to apologize for the wrath of God as though there is a defect in His character." (Pastor Ashwin) Why is it important for believers to be clear about the intensity and focus of God's wrath?
7. The doctrine of 'imminency' speaks into the potential of Christ's return at any time and the encouragement to always 'be ready'. Has that been lost in the general church today? Is it a necessary doctrine given that there are so many other life issues to deal with today? Why or why not? How would your life be different if you held fast to this doctrine?

### **OUT Seek to be the Community of God's people in your community**

1. What personal uncertainties are you facing? How can our group encourage you to remember that Jesus is 'KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS'?
2. In what way can we pray for one another?
3. Did any elements of the symbolism discussed intrigue you? Determine to study it further this coming week.

***UP – IN – OUT reflect a balanced life including a focus on our personal relationship with the Father (UP), staying connected to the Body (IN), and reaching our world (OUT).***

### Resources:

*The Throne, the Lamb and the Dragon: A Reader's Guide to the Book of Revelation*, Paul Spilsbury (2002)  
*Discipleship on the Edge: The Book of Revelation*, Darrell Johnson (2004)

### This week's writers:

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## **THE WORD (NIV)**

### **Revelation 19:11-21**

<sup>11</sup> 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 wages war. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. <sup>14</sup> The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup> Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. <sup>16</sup> On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

<sup>17</sup> 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, <sup>18</sup> so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small."

<sup>19</sup> Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. <sup>20</sup> But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. <sup>21</sup> The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.



Most movies and paintings present Jesus as 'soft.' He is handsome, His skin is white, He cradles a small sleeping lamb, and He has a halo around his head. Is this really who Jesus is? This is an important question because how we view Jesus impacts how we live our lives.

The word 'revelation' means 'unveiling.' The book of Revelation reveals end time prophecies, as well as a person - the Lord Jesus. The Apostle John wrote the book of Revelation to the seven churches in Asia while he was in exile on the island of Patmos. The early church was discouraged by the relentless persecution of the Roman Empire who viewed them as political traitors. The book of *Revelation* offers hope.

Revelation 19 depicts Jesus as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. This is the beginning of the final act in which Jesus asserts His Lordship over all things.

**'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 wages war' (Rev 19:11).** Here we see a picture of the conquering King, Lord Jesus, riding a white horse. In a culture where emperors and generals rode white horses to signify their triumph, John pictures Jesus as a victorious, conquering general. The triumphant king is not Caesar; it's Jesus - Lord over all!

When Jesus first came, He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday. In the ancient Middle Eastern world, when the king rode into a city on a donkey it meant he came in peace. When he rode on a horse it meant war and conquest.

The text calls Jesus 'Faithful' and 'True'. As the Faithful One, His promises will not fail. He is True. He doesn't just teach us truth, but he is the truth. **'His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns' (Rev 19:12).** He doesn't just look at us but he looks through us. He knows our secrets and our motives. On his head are many crowns. This is the royal Messiah. The crown symbolizes victory.

**'He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God' (Rev 12:13).** His garments are bloodstained. Some interpreters think this is the blood of his enemies, but at this point in the text the battle has not yet taken place. This is Christ's own blood. Christ does not conquer through the use of force. He is not a military conqueror. His path is self-sacrifice.

Let's look at the armies of heaven who were following Jesus. **'The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean' (Rev 19:14).** The armies of heaven represent the followers of Jesus. They are wearing white linen, and Jesus is wearing a robe stained with blood. This is in sharp contrast to how it was before the cross - when Jesus' garments were clean and ours were stained with sin.

**'Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter"' (Rev 19:15).** If Jesus doesn't fight through the use of force, why is the sword from his mouth striking the nations? Also, why is His army dressed in white linen? Who dresses like that for war? White linens were not worn by military warriors, but by priests. The Kingdom of Jesus is actually an army of priests. They don't cause destruction. They pray, intercede and bless others - including their enemies. That's how we fight our battle! The Apostle Paul says, **'The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds' (2 Cor 10:4).**

But isn't Jesus carrying a sword? He is, but He is carrying it in His mouth. It represents the power of His speech. When Jesus comes on a white horse to fight the final battle of Armageddon in Revelation 19, He doesn't use weapons. He wins by speaking. In fact there is no battle, and no fighting. Jesus speaks and his enemies surrender. All opponents to Christ's Kingdom are wiped out without a fight and His Word brings everyone to subjection.

There is only one battle in Revelation and it's the cross - where Jesus defeated the principalities and forces of darkness and hurled them down from heaven. At the Second Coming, Jesus is not coming to fight for victory but to bring the consequences of the victory He has already won!

Warfare terminology is used to refer to His justice, not physical warfare. Jesus doesn't come to fight but to judge. It is an execution of justice rather than a physical military conflict. **'With justice he judges and wages war' (Rev 19:11b).**

God has put up with so much over the centuries - rebellion, hatred, violence, repeated violation of the innocent. A day is coming when he will say, 'Enough!' We don't need to apologize for the wrath of God. A God who doesn't demonstrate wrath against evil is not worthy of worship!

A day is coming when justice will roll down and everything wrong with the world will be sorted out. This is not a fearful message; it is a message of hope!

*Revelation* gives the good news that Jesus wins, and it offers a vision of hope that will sustain us in the most trying times of our life! Jesus is the Lord over our governments, our leaders, our schools, and our world. And when we face personal challenges, we need to remember that He is still Lord and King over our circumstances, regardless of the outcome. He holds us in His hands and in Him we are secure.