

## **Revelation 19:11-16 – The Bridegroom – A Man of War**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Some men are nice sweet guys that say lots of nice things and charm their way into the heart of an unsuspecting 不怀疑的 woman. After they are married, they reveal their true colors. They are not bad men, but they don't know how to effectively care for and provide for their families...and they are inadequate to raise a family. Not so with the Bridegroom of the church. He stands tall...ready to do. He rescued his bride, cleaned her up, clothed her, married her, and provided a banquet table for her. But that is only the beginning of his work for her. The Bridegroom of the church must keep his Bride safe and work for the expansion of the family. And that is exactly what we see next in our text and what we will examine today.

Our headings are: The Bridegroom's **Position, Description, and Action.**

Our goals are: That you will **see the fullness of Christ's love for his church, particularly how he works to expand her, for the church's good and for his own glory.**

### **The Position of the Bridegroom**

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

1. Jesus rides out on a white horse. The white horse symbolized victory and dominion. (6:2, 14:14). He sits on no one's lap – like the Scarlet Harlot did. He is majestic on the horse. He is like the “knight in shining armor.” He is a picture of beauty and power. This makes him the darling of the Bride.

2. Jesus is “Faithful” and “True.” Faithful – in that he will never abandon his new Bride. True – in that he gives assurance that he will do what he has promised. He doesn't change after the marriage, as men often do. This makes the Bride love him even more.

3. The Bridegroom judges his enemies in perfect righteousness – without fault. When he condemns the enemy of his people, he is just. When he brings them to submission by the power of the Gospel he is right. Notice how these 2 things always go hand in hand: protection of the godly and destruction of the wicked. This is an often repeated theme in the Scriptures.

Psalms 72:2 He will judge Your people with righteousness, And Your poor with justice. 3 The mountains will bring peace to the people, And the little hills, by righteousness. 4 He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, And will break in pieces the oppressor.

Isaiah 11: 3 His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; 4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

Jeremiah 23: 5 "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

4. Reasonably, you can see that this verse is not referring to the end of the world...

a. After providing his new Bride with new clothes, Christ Jesus entered into union with his new Bride and provided food in the Lord's Supper...and these things happened after Jerusalem was destroyed. So the Lord is reassuring his Bride that she is safe with him and well provided for.

b. After marriage, the Bridegroom goes into battle with the world. Verse 15 describes the fact that this battle was a battle for evangelism... This was for having children – many children in this new marriage. The Bridegroom was in a position of marching out to do spiritual battle.

### **The Description of the Bridegroom**

12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written

that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

1. We have already seen John describe the Lord Jesus Christ, this way – with **flaming eyes**.

Revelation 1:14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;

But this picture gets richer. Jesus is a king who is going out to conquer. More, he has already conquered. This is why he has some **many crowns** on his head. But he wants more children.

2. Then there is something strange. Christ's crown was marked with the sacred name that only he knew. You may ask: We know his name, why does John say we don't know the name? Answer: You know the name on Christ's crown in the cognitive sense, like we know that 2 + 2 = 4. But he had the experience of the name – knowing fully what he did and could do. We call this experiential knowledge...like when the Bible says that Adam knew his wife and she became pregnant. We know Eve's history, but Adam had an intimate experience with this wife.

3. Christ's clothes were dipped in blood. Some people say that the bloody clothes were dipped in the grapes of wrath which picture the blood of the wicked, but I believe that this pictures Christ's bloody sacrifice for sins...the foundation of his evangelism. It was life through blood.

4. Christ's name is the "Word of God." This emphasizes Christ's prophet ministry.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

5. Christ has armies following him...armies in heaven. The soldiers of these armies are those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life – the Bride. Remember, Christians who are alive on the earth today are considered to be seated in heaven.

Ephesians 2: 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Hebrews 12: 22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

This is another reason we know that this is not a book that is about the end of the world, as the children of Christ are going out to conquer for him. At the end of the world there will be no more conquering. We say now: Conquering now and still to conquer... And this army is ready to conquer. It is an army clothed **in fine linen** – covered with Christ's righteousness. It is an army of **white and clean** clothing- meaning the army is clear of sins – washed in the blood of the Lamb. And this is a victorious army – as they are pictured as going out **on white horses**. By the way, Jesus will not return on horses at the end of the world...so this is not end times symbolism.

## The Action of the Bridegroom

15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

1. The Bridegroom fights with the Word of God...And he conquers by the Gospel.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow 骨髓, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

2. The Bridegroom's goal is to strike the nations with the Word of God...destroy them...either to condemn to hell or convert them to heaven. This is why it is a "two-edged" sword.

Isaiah 49: 1 "Listen, O coastlands, to Me, And take heed, you peoples from afar! The LORD has called Me from the womb; From the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name. 2 And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; In the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, And made Me a polished shaft 箭; In His quiver 箭袋 He has hidden Me."

Hosea 6:5 Therefore I have hewn 劈 them by the prophets, I have slain them by the words of My mouth; And your judgments are like light that goes forth.

So as soldiers (or Bride) in Christ's kingdom you must live holily and fight the same way – with the Word of God!

Romans 12: 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet 头盔 of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

With the sword of God you dissect 详细分析 faulty arguments and leave the people wanting Christ...and if they reject Christ, they will be properly condemned.

### 3. Christ will be the ruler of the nations...and does not delegate this duty to others. And indeed ministers rule under Christ.

The Pope is not in the place of Christ as Romanists argue.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Matthew 24: 29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

And it is a rule of iron...meaning that all must bow to him. He does not want children who want a "cordial" relationship with him, but those who want true intimacy with him.

Psalms 2:8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."

Obviously this is not end of the world scenario, as Christ is ruling the nations. And there are still those who are rejecting him and those who receiving him. The rejecters of Christ are crushed.

Isaiah 63: 2 Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? 3 "I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes. 4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come.

### 4. Christ has his robe showed his position. On his thigh was written that he indeed was the King of kings. What reassurances this must have been to the church that was suffering at the hands of the Jews and the Romans! What optimism 乐观 they could have looking to the future! Christ will win.

## Conclusion:

Christ is the Bridegroom upon whom the Bride (who are also his soldiers), can depend. The Bridegroom is powerful, accomplished, and showers you with everything you need to be near to him and serve him. The Bride does not need to fear anything-not the world-not the future, but she goes out with power to speak the truth of God's Word so that many children can be brought into the kingdom and those who reject the truth of God's Word might be condemned.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: 1. As the Bride, rejoice that you are Christ's Bride. You were ugly and undesirable, but he loved you anyway. 2. Go without fear with Christ to conquer the world for Christ – using the Word of God. Those who try to make converts by simply trying to get people to imitate their example...don't understand the Gospel properly. It is only the Word of God that brings change. Nothing breaks the back of the enemy of God other than the Word of God. So at the least, you can give a Bible to someone so he can read. You may not feel competent to preach...or to boldly proclaim about Christ, but surely you can give a Bible. 3. Don't be afraid if you offend. Better to risk offending someone with truth than for them to spend eternity in hell.

Finally: Jesus Christ is the Word of God who gave himself as a sacrifice for you. If you accept him you will be freed from the judgment of sin, death, and hell. If you reject the sacrifice of Jesus Christ—you will become a sacrifice for your own sins...except that you cannot take up your life again...like he did. So be wise, dear friend, and hold on to the sacrifice that fully satisfies God's justice...and gives you new life.