

*FASTING AND PRAYER DAY - OCTOBER 3 2015*

**PICTURES OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION  
JESUS, THE GLORIOUS KING**

Dr. Derek Morris

Preaching passage:	Revelation 19:11-16.
Subject:	Who is the Faithful and True Witness who leads the armies of heaven?
Complement:	Jesus, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
Exegetical idea:	The Faithful and True Witness who leads the armies of heaven is Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords.
Homiletical idea:	If you love Jesus now, you will welcome Him with joy when He returns to the earth as our Glorious King.
Purpose:	To remind my hearers of the wonderful truth that Jesus will return to this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords and to encourage them to love Him now so they will welcome Him with joy when He returns as our Glorious King.

## **JESUS, THE GLORIOUS KING**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This message is another and last part of the series entitled Pictures of Jesus in the book of Revelation.

We have noted that the book of Revelation is the Revelation of Jesus Christ. It is a revelation by Jesus Christ to His servant John about that which must come to pass. But it is also a revelation about Jesus Christ.

In this series, we have been examining different pictures of Jesus in the book of Revelation: Jesus the Christ-child, Jesus the Risen Lord and today, on this special Sabbath day of fasting and prayer accordingly to the 111 initiative, we are going to examine the picture in the book of Revelation of Jesus the Glorious King.

Let's take a brief look at what the other books of the Bible say about the coming of Jesus as Glorious King before we go to the book of Revelation!

### **DESCRIPTION OF JESUS' RETURN IN OTHER BOOKS OF THE BIBLE**

When Jesus walked on the earth almost 2000 years ago, He made a radical promise to His followers. We find that promise recorded in John 14:2-3:

*"In my Father's house," Jesus said, "are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."*

Christians down through the ages have referred to that glorious return of Jesus Christ to the earth as the second coming of Jesus.

After the death of Jesus on the cross for our sins and glorious resurrection from the dead, Scripture records that Jesus ascended to heaven, to His Father's house.

The scene is recorded in Acts 1:9-11:

*"After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was ascending, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'"*

Here again, heavenly messengers give the followers of Jesus a promise of His second coming: *"This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."*

Jesus had described His second coming to this earth with these words, in Matthew 24:30-31:

*"At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet*

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*call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.”*

This testimony of Jesus makes it clear that when Jesus returns to this earth a second time, He will not come as He did the first time, as a helpless baby in Bethlehem’s manger.

Jesus will return *“on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory!”*

The return of Jesus, our Glorious King, has always been viewed as a very positive event; something to look forward to.

We sing songs like *“Lift up the trumpet and loud let it ring, Jesus is coming again. Cheer up ye pilgrims, be joyful and sing, “Jesus is coming again!”*

We view the second coming of Jesus in power and great glory as a positive event. A time of great joy!

The apostle Paul tells us that another wonderful event is going to take place at the second coming of Jesus.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 we read:

*“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.”*

Those who have died, trusting in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, they will be raised to life at the second coming of Jesus! Did you hear that?

*“The dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.”*

What an amazing reunion that will be! How many of you have loved ones and friends who have fallen asleep in Jesus that you will be looking for on that day? What a day of rejoicing that will be! Can we say Amen?

So, when we think of the second coming of Jesus, it’s a very positive event.

We’ll see Jesus face to face.

The dead in Christ will be raised. We long for Jesus to return in power and great glory. Don’t we?

### **DESCRIPTION OF JESUS’ RETURN IN REVELATION – REVELATION 19:11-16**

The book of Revelation also paints a picture of Jesus returning to the earth as the Glorious King. But it’s not a joyful picture. It shows another side to the story. We are going to study that picture today.

The passage that we are going to study together today is found toward the end of the book of Revelation, in Revelation 19:11-16. It’s a picture of Jesus, the Glorious King.

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### REVELATION 19: 11

Please open your Bible to the last book of the New Testament, the Revelation of Jesus Christ, as we will begin reading with Rev. 19:11:

*"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."*

Who is this Rider on the white horse? It is none other than Jesus, the Faithful Witness, who stands in the midst of the seven churches in Revelation chapters 2 and 3.

### REVELATION 19: 12, 16

John continues to paint the picture in Rev. 19: 12:

*"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."*

Those words remind us of the picture of Jesus, the Risen Lord, in Revelation chapter 1.

There in Revelation 1, Jesus, the Risen Lord is described as having eyes like blazing fire.

What is the significance of the many crowns on His head? Isn't one crown enough? And what is the name written on him that no one knows but He Himself?

Perhaps the answer is found in Revelation 19:16:

*"On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: King of kings and Lord of lords."*

That is the significance of the many crowns.

Jesus is not just a king. He is King of kings and Lord of lords!

### REVELATION 19: 13

The apostle John continues to paint the picture in Rev. 19:13:

*"He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God."*

That reminds us of the picture of Jesus, the Lamb of God, in Revelation chapter 5.

It is this same Jesus who now appears on the scene of history as the Glorious King!

### REVELATION 19: 14

Let's continue to read, in Rev. 19:14:

*"The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean."*

Just like their commander, Jesus, the Glorious King, the armies of heaven are also riding on white horses. Are they taking a casual ride? No.

This is a picture of an impending battle.

What is the significance of the fine linen clothing, white and clean, that the armies of heaven are wearing?

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It's a symbol of righteousness.

Earlier in the same chapter 19 of Revelation, we are told that the redeemed are also wearing fine linen, bright and clean.

In Rev. 19:7-8, we read:

*“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. (The bride is a symbol for the redeemed). Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear. (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)”*

Now, before you come to a false conclusion that we somehow produce that fine linen by our righteous acts, please notice that “fine linen, bright and clean,” was given her to wear.

This righteousness is both provided for them by Jesus and also revealed in their lives through righteous acts.

### REVELATION 19: 15

Let's continue to read in Rev. 19:15:

*“Out of his mouth comes 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.”*

Jesus and the armies of heaven are returning to the earth, and out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations.

That's not a very appealing picture, is it?

Is this a literal sword coming out of His mouth? Are Jesus and the armies of heaven actually riding horses? This is symbolic.

This is a picture of the culmination of a spiritual battle; a battle between good and evil.

Jesus and the armies of heaven are about to bring the great controversy to an end.

So what is this sharp sword that is coming out of the mouth of Jesus?

It is the Word of God; the sword of the Spirit. It is the truth of God.

The nations of the earth have mocked His name. They have scorned His mercy and rejected His grace. And now it is the time of judgment.

Chapter 6 of the book of Revelation records the response of those who have rejected Christ at the time of His return to earth as the Glorious King of kings and Lord of lords - Rev. 6:14-17.

This is such a different picture from the one that we have always imagined at the second coming of Jesus, where we look up with joy when we see Jesus, our Glorious King returning with power and great glory.

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We may have always imagined ourselves looking up with joy and crying out, “*Lo, this is our God. We have waited for Him and He will save us. This is the Lord, let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.*”

So what makes the difference? Why do some look up with joy and others run in fear? Why is the glory of our King a cause for joy to some and a consuming fire to others? What makes the difference?

#### **It's our relationship with Jesus!**

If we have accepted Jesus as our personal Savior, if we believe in Him as the Lamb of God, if we trust Him as our Risen Lord, if we listen to Him as our Faithful Witness, then we will welcome Him as our Glorious King.

If, on the other hand, we have scorned His grace, and rejected His authority, if we have turned away from His truth, then we will not welcome Him with joy when He returns to this earth with power and great glory. We will run in fear and cry for the rocks to fall on us.

#### **CONCLUSION**

All that's happening in this world testify that it won't take too long before Jesus, our Glorious King, returns to this earth with power and great glory. And that means that we have a work to do.

There are so many people who still have not heard the truth about Jesus. We want them to be able to welcome Jesus with joy. Isn't that right?

God has given us the privilege of sharing the good news about Jesus and His love with our world. Each of us has the privilege of telling others about Jesus – that He is the Messiah, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, and that He is the risen Lord, raised from the dead, soon to return to this earth with power and great glory as our Glorious King.

Jesus, our Glorious King, will soon return again to this earth. Some will welcome Him with joy, and others will run in fear. We need to tell people about the return of Jesus and we need to tell them how they can meet Him with joy.

It's simple: “*If you love Jesus now, you will welcome Him with joy when He returns to the earth as our Glorious King!*”

He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. His name is Jesus, because He will save His people from their sin. But we have to choose whether we will accept His salvation.

We have to choose to love Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Dear fellow brothers and sisters, what is your choice?

On which side do you want to be on that great day?

Jesus has done His part and He invites you this morning to do yours!

As you are making your decision for that imminent great event, I invite you to pray with me!

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