

## Lesson 12 17 January 2010

### The Lord's Ultimate Victory

**Lesson Scope:** Revelation 19 and 20

#### Lesson Focus

By way of introduction, the first ten verses of chapter 19 give special insight into the activity of the saints in heaven during this time of judgment and triumph. It is "a great voice of much people" who declare, "For true and righteous are his judgments." In these verses reference is made to "the marriage of the Lamb" and "the marriage supper of the Lamb." Notice also the call in verse 5 to "praise our God."

The last part of verse 10 declares, "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Jesus came and bore testimony to God's eternal plan. His life and teaching are the inspiration for preaching and interpreting the divine will. Christ is the center of the whole plan.

The fall of Babylon is the cause of much rejoicing in heaven. The multitudes of the redeemed are heard saying, "Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." Another occasion for great gladness and rejoicing is the marriage of the Lamb. It is the time of Christ's ultimate victory, and the saints share in Christ's triumph.

But it is also the time of Satan's defeat, and the wicked share in the loss with him. This thought brings sadness.

Heaven opens to reveal the coming of the King of kings and Lord of lords as He advances in wrath to conquer all opposition.

*Christ and His kingdom of righteousness will ultimately triumph. Although Satan appears to have many victories now, he will be cast into the lake of fire to be tormented forever*

**Lesson Aim:** To glean truths and encouragements from God's final triumph over Satan.

#### Theme Verse

[Daniel 2:44](#). And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand for ever.

## Lesson Text

### Triumphant Over Evil

[Rev. 19:11-21](#)

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. <sup>12</sup>His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. <sup>13</sup>And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup>And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup>And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. <sup>16</sup>And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

<sup>17</sup>And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; <sup>18</sup>That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all *men*, *both* free and bond, both small and great. <sup>19</sup>And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. <sup>20</sup>And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. <sup>21</sup>And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which *sword* proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

### Triumphant Over Satan

[Rev. 20:1-3](#)

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup>And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, <sup>3</sup>And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

[Rev. 20:10](#) And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire

and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

### **Triumphant in Judgment**

[Rev. 20:11-12](#)

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup>And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

[Rev. 20:14-15](#)

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup>And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

### **Questions for Study**

#### **Triumphant Over Evil**

1. What titles and attributes identify Christ as the white horse rider?
2. What descriptions and actions of the white horse rider depict His great wrath?
3. What motivates the kings of earth to join in battle against Christ (compare 16:13-14)?

#### **Triumphant Over Satan**

4. What is God's purpose in binding Satan?
5. How is Satan's eternal judgment a comfort to the saints?

#### **Triumphant in Judgment**

6. On what basis will men be judged?
7. How should the overall tone of this lesson affect the believer?

### **Analyzing the Passage**

Chapter 19 opens with the statement *I heard*. This is repeated in verse 6. But in verse 1 we notice the first of seven *I saw* statements. Each one relates to a specific aspect of the vision, but all are related to the whole.

First. John saw Jesus on a white horse, followed by the armies of heaven on white horses. This time He is riding a horse instead of a lowly donkey. And He treads the winepress of God's wrath. The battle is decisive.

Secondly (19:17-18), the fowls of heaven are called to eat the flesh of those slain in the battle. It is "the supper of the great God."

Thirdly (19:19), John saw the armies of the earth assembled to fight against the armies of heaven. Christ is victorious, and the antichrist and the false prophet are cast into the lake of fire.

Next John saw the devil bound and cast into the *bottomless pit* (20:13). Satan is later cast into the lake of fire (20:10).

Following this victory (20:4). John saw thrones occupied by those who were faithful to Jesus and to the Word of God even unto death. They refused to receive the mark of the beast. The beast and the false prophet were reigning then, but now the tide has turned.

After this, John saw the *great white throne* occupied by God (20:11-12). It is the final judgment. All of the ungodly of all times are judged and cast into the lake of fire.

Finally, in chapter 21, John saw "a new heaven and a new earth." And he saw the New Jerusalem. This is a picture of completion and perfection: it is the subject of the next lesson.

## **Principles and Applications Triumphant Over Evil**

1. *Christ, the returning, conquering Lord triumphs in righteousness (19:11).*

His worthiness to conquer and rule is indisputable. The righteous rejoice because evil is finally defeated and their faith is vindicated.

2. *Satan is overcome by the Word of God (19:15).*

Christ's authority is absolute and final. The battle is not prolonged. The saints follow their Captain, but there is no indication that they need to help win the battle. All that Christ needs to do is say the word! Christ not only smites; He also rules, and He does so with a rod of iron.

3. *The conquering King will inflict a deathblow upon Satan and his forces (19:17-21).*

Satan apparently deceives his followers into thinking, that they can overcome Christ. But his forces will have neither opportunity nor power to attack. They are suddenly and irresistibly vanquished. It is specifically mentioned that the beast and the false prophet are cast into the lake of fire at this juncture.

4. *Those who defy God will be cast into the lake of fire (19:20).*

All nations that forget God will be turned into hell (Psalm 9:17). These kings and their armies are cast alive into the lake of fire.

## **Triumphant Over Satan**

5. *Satan is subject to the limitations God places upon him (20:1-3).*

Satan could not touch Job until God allowed it. His power to tempt us is limited by God's understanding of our strength. When God shuts up Satan in the bottomless pit he loses what liberties he had. We can trust God to superintend and overrule in our lives for our good.

6. *Satan will be cast into the lake of fire (20:10).*

When this takes place, Satan's program of deception ends, and his eternal torment begins. He will be utterly vanquished, never again to rebel against his Creator.

## **Triumphant in Judgment**

7. *God will judge all men according to their works (20:12).*

The white throne judgment is the final judgment of the wicked. The books will not lie. No one is missing because his body could not be found in the sea. The grave is temporary, and all the dead that are there must appear for sentence. The text says it twice: judgment will be "according to their works." Our only hope is to be named in the Book of Life.

8. *The wicked will be cast into the lake of fire (20:15).*

The lake of fire is the eternal abode of the wicked. It was prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). And at the time of judgment scene, the devil, the beast, and the false prophet are already there. Now those who served them will join them. Our eternal abode will be with the one we served.

## **Important Teachings**

1. Christ, the returning, conquering Lord triumphs in righteousness (19:11).
2. Satan is overcome by the Word of God (19:15).
3. The conquering King will inflict a deathblow upon Satan and his forces (19:17-21).
4. Those who defy God will be cast into the lake of fire (19:20).
5. Satan is subject to the limitations God places upon him (20:1-3).
6. Satan will be cast into the lake of fire (20:10).
7. God will judge all men according to their works (20:12).
8. The wicked will be cast into the lake of fire (20:15).

## **Answers to Questions**

1. *What titles and attributes identify Christ as the white-horse rider?*

The one riding the white horse is called "Faithful and True." The term righteousness speaks of holiness, justice, and uprightness. His eyes are blazing. He is wearing kingly crowns. He has blood on his vesture from treading the winepress of judgment (14:20; Isaiah 63:1-3). He is called the Word of God! Unmistakably it is Jesus.

2. *What descriptions and actions of the white-horse rider depict His great wrath?*

His eyes are ablaze with fire. His words are piercing as a sword; He smites the nations. He treads the winepress of God's wrath. The term fierceness is descriptive of His actions. His shepherd's staff is made of iron rather than wood. His title declares Him to be in sovereign control.

3. *What motivates the kings of the earth to join in battle against Christ (compare 16:13-14)?*

You would think that by this time men would know better. But the whole activity of Satan, the beast, and the false prophet is characterized by deception. It is the miraculous power of the false prophet that deceives people into taking the mark of the beast. It seems obvious to them that they are on the winning side.

In chapter 16 the truth becomes known, and it is plainly stated that this is the work of evil spirits. It is evil spirits that give miraculous power to the beast and false prophet.

4. *What is God's purpose in binding Satan?*

God binds Satan to limit his activity. It demonstrates His sovereign control and fulfills His will in the plan of redemption. It shows who is the rightful heir and gives men opportunity to acknowledge and submit to Christ's leadership.

5. *How is Satan's eternal judgment a comfort to the saints?*

It is a comfort because Satan is the archenemy of God who has spoiled many lives. In a small way we understand now the comfort that is experienced when righteousness prevails and those who stood for the right are vindicated.

6. *On what basis will men be judged?*

The text simply states that men will be judged according to their works. This is fair because works are the test of a person's faith. Some would like to separate works and faith. They blame the righteous for having a works

religion. This whole matter is set straight in the Book of James where works and faith are shown in proper relationship.

*7. How should the overall tone of this lesson affect the believer?*

It should produce in the heart a deep sense of thankfulness for the plan of redemption. It produces a burden for those who are being deceived. It should have a sobering effect on one's life. The thought of eternal torment is horrifying, but the prospect of eternal bliss is comforting.

### **Summarizing the Lesson**

Christ will triumph! Shall we share in His victory'? Shall we be with the linen-clad throng praising God? Or shall we be among those who join Satan in the lake of fire? Shall we be a part of Christ's bride or of the suffering whore? The choices we make today determine our destiny. How sobering!

### **Research Guide**

You will find it helpful to re-read the entire Book of Revelation in one sitting. Verses from chapter 16 are referred to in relation to study question number 3.