

# Jesus--King of Kings and Lord of Lords

## Revelation Chapter 19

“From a great chess player of Cincinnati, we learn that in the early part of the last century an artist who was also a great chess player painted a picture of a chess game. The players were a young man and Satan. The young man manipulated the white pieces; Satan the black pieces. The issue of the game was this: should the young man win, he was to be forever free from the power of evil; should the devil win, the young man was to be his slave forever. The artist evidently believed in the supreme power of evil, for his picture presented the devil as victor.

“In the conception of the artist, the devil had just moved his queen and had announced a checkmate in four moves. The young man’s hand hovered over his rook; his face paled with amazement—there was no hope. The devil wins! He was to be a slave forever.

“For years, this picture hung in a great art gallery. Chess players from all over the world viewed the picture. They acquiesced in the thought of the artist. **The devil wins!** After several years a chess doubter arose; he studied the picture and became convinced that there was but one chess player upon the earth who could give him assurance that the artist of this picture was right in his conception of the winner. The chess player was the aged Paul Morphy, a resident of New Orleans, Louisiana. Morphy was a supreme master of chess in his day, an undefeated champion. A scheme was arranged through which Morphy was brought to Cincinnati to view the chess picture.

“Morphy stood before the picture, five minutes, ten minutes, twenty minutes, thirty minutes. He was all concentration; he lifted and lowered his hands as, in imagination, he made and eliminated moves. Suddenly, his hand paused, his eyes burned with the vision of an unthought-of combination. Suddenly, he shouted, “Young man, make that move. That’s the move!”

“To the amazement of all, the old master, the supreme chess personality, had discovered a combination that the creating artist

had not considered. The young man defeated the Devil.”<sup>1</sup>

No matter how difficult things become in your life; no matter how convinced you are that Satan is winning in your chess game, remember that Jesus is the undefeated player who cannot and will not ever be beaten, and He will whisper every right move in your ear to assure you are victorious.

Revelation 19:1-21 NAS:

<sup>1</sup> *After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God;*

<sup>2</sup> *BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER."*

<sup>3</sup> *And a second time they said, "Hallelujah! HER SMOKE RISES UP FOREVER AND EVER."*

<sup>4</sup> *And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!"*

<sup>5</sup> *And a voice came from the throne, saying, "**Give praise to our God**, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great."*

<sup>6</sup> *Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "**Hallelujah!** For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.*

<sup>7</sup> *"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."*

<sup>8</sup> *It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*

<sup>9</sup> *Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."*

<sup>10</sup> *Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; **worship God.** For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*

<sup>11</sup> *And **I saw heaven opened**, and behold, a **white horse**, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.*

<sup>12</sup> *His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.*

<sup>1</sup> Tan, Paul Lee: Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations : A Treasury of Illustrations, Anecdotes, Facts and Quotations for Pastors, Teachers and Christian Workers. Garland TX : Bible Communications, 1996, c1979

<sup>13</sup> He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen,<sup>2</sup> white and clean, were following Him on white horses.

<sup>15</sup> From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

<sup>16</sup> And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

<sup>17</sup> Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in mid-heaven, "Come, assemble for **the great supper of God**,

<sup>18</sup> so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great."

<sup>19</sup> And I saw **the beast** and the **kings of the earth** and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

<sup>20</sup> And the **beast** was seized, and with him the **false prophet** who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

<sup>21</sup> And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

This chapter is loaded with information. Let us now take a closer look at each verse.

#### Revelation 19:1-4 NAS:

<sup>1</sup> After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God;

<sup>2</sup> BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged **the great harlot** who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER."

<sup>3</sup> And a second time they said, "Hallelujah! HER SMOKE RISES UP FOREVER AND EVER."

<sup>4</sup> And the twenty-four **elders** and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!"

The idea which had merely been suggested in Revelation 18:20, "Rejoice over her, O

<sup>2</sup> Also see Rev. 19:8

*heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her," is now totally fulfilled representing the final triumph of Christ over the forces of evil.*

What a glorious day this will be when Christ returns bringing peace and joy with Him and casting out evil. The great multitude in Heaven celebrates the return and victory of the Lamb with hymns of triumph. He provided all the saints with salvation by His grace, thereby being worthy of all glory and power throughout eternity. His judgments are true according to His promises. God provided the leaders of the kingdom of Antichrist with many opportunities to see the truth but they chose to reject it because they saw themselves as invincible, literally challenging God's power and authority. This is a sure way to detonate God's wrath. For the millions upon millions, and possibly even billions of people which the great "whore" and the Antichrist led astray with their idolatry and lies, and for the millions of lives that were violently taken by them, **their judgment will be severe.**<sup>3</sup>

The song of triumph continues and for the second time Heaven shouts, "***Hallelujah!***" Babylon's smoke will ascend forever and ever. The twenty-four elders and the four living beings fell down, and they worshiped God who sits upon the throne, and they shouted out again in celebration, "***Amen, Hallelujah!***"<sup>4</sup>

**"The great harlot (whore) is cast into the abyss of fire and brimstone, to be burned with fire throughout eternity (chapter 18:8). And this fact causes both the elders representing the Church of God and the four cherubs that acted as His servants and messengers to fall down before the throne of God in the act of worshipful adoration, and to repeat, in endless refrain, their hymn of praise, Amen, Hallelujah; to God alone all praise and glory, through all eternity."**<sup>5</sup>

Revelation 19:5-8 NAS:

<sup>5</sup> *And a voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great."*

<sup>6</sup> *Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! ***For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.****

<sup>7</sup> *"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."*

<sup>8</sup> *It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*

<sup>3</sup> – *New Testament Volume 2*, (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1921), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 644-647.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> *And the angel said to me, “Write this: **Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.**” And he added, “These are true words that come from God.”*

<sup>10</sup> *Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said, “No, don’t worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers and sisters who testify about their faith in Jesus. **Worship only God.** For the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus.”*

Verse 5 is directed toward those who had a special devotion to Jesus’ interests, to His service and worship, thereby giving them the closest fellowship with Him. That will be the great gift that God gives to His Bride (the Church) throughout eternity, to praise the Lord of their salvation. We see and hear their response in verse 6. Like the shouting of perhaps millions or even billions of people, like the crashing of waves that the kayaker hears against the rocks as he races through a mighty stream or river with “class 4” rapids. Like thunder, the song of the redeemed booms forth from Heaven praising His mighty power and glory. The all-powerful God has conquered all of His enemies leaving only Him as king over all.

There is yet another reason to rejoice and be glad, and that is to be one who is invited to the **wedding feast of the Lamb**. His wife has made herself ready and she is dressed in shining white linen.<sup>6</sup> The bride of Christ, the holy Christian Church, all of those that have come to faith and remained faithful to the Lord unto the end, is celebrating her marriage with the Lamb, with the Savior, with Christ. That is reason enough for the greatest rejoicing ever, to finally be aware that all the hopes throughout the centuries have now been realized, and all believers will be united with Jesus throughout eternity. The bride, moreover, is clothed in the most gorgeous wedding-garment, all pure white and shining like the sun. The bride wears the dress of salvation. Without Christ all righteousness is as filthy rags (Isaiah 1:18). However, with Christ through faith, even our smallest works are acceptable to the heavenly Father. We then, because of Christ’s perfect obedience to the commandment of God, through the shedding of His blood and through His death and resurrection, will be draped in a cloak of pure, fine white linen.

The events and majesty of the scene John had witnessed was so shocking and overpowering to him that he fell before the angel’s feet to worship him. He was ready to honor and glorify this angel from Heaven who revealed the final triumph to him in such an exceptional manner. However, the angel interrupted John telling him: “*I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers and sisters who testify about their faith in Jesus. **Worship only God.** For the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus.*”

“The testimony of Jesus, to which the angel referred, is that Spirit of Prophecy by whose power all the prophets and apostles, including John himself, had testified of Jesus and of His kingdom. Although the angels are heavenly spirits, powerful and

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

blessed, yet they are but servants and witnesses of Christ, and should therefore not be given divine honor; for that belongs to God alone.”<sup>7</sup>

Revelation 19:11-16 NAS:

<sup>11</sup> *And I saw heaven opened, and behold, **a white horse**, and He who sat on it is called **Faithful and True**, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.*

<sup>12</sup> ***His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.***

<sup>13</sup> ***He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.***

<sup>14</sup> ***And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.***

<sup>15</sup> ***From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.***

<sup>16</sup> ***And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."***

Here is the conquering king appearing on the balcony of Heaven to gather His troops for a battle that will determine world rule forever. Of course He would be mounted on a white horse. What He is about to do will be perfectly just as He wages war and judges unrepentant sinners.

“Jesus Christ Himself appears here as the Victor, as the triumphant King. In that bloody battle for the souls of men He has proved Himself the stronger, He has conquered all the enemies of mankind, forcing them to acknowledge His power forever. Faithful He is, for He has kept His promise, as it was given even in the Garden of Eden after the Fall; true He is, to be trusted at all times implicitly, for He is a Rock upon whom our confidence may rest without wavering. He has brought about a decision in the just cause which He represented; He has overcome in the war which the enemies themselves began. The zeal of justice and of judgment shines from His eyes, and He has the power over all the crowns of the world, all kings and rulers being but clay in His hands.”<sup>8</sup>

Jesus’ robe is spattered with the blood which He shed for the salvation of the world.<sup>9</sup> Like the wounds in His hands and feet and in His side His blood-spattered robe is a testimony to His victory. One of the names which He proudly bears is **"The Word of**

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Genesis 49:11; Isaiah 63:2-3.

**God,"** John 1:1. As the almighty Word of the Father He has revealed Himself in this war by the victory which He has won, by which the world, death, and Satan are overcome and vanquished forever.<sup>10</sup>

Jesus most appropriately leads the saints in Heaven who follow Him on white horses, clothed in white, clean, fine linen. Coming out of the mouth of Jesus we see a sharp sword with which He will inflict a death blow upon the nations, and He will then rule them with an iron rod, and He will also tread the wine-press of the anger of the wrath of God Almighty. Now what is this "*sharp sword*" coming out of Jesus' mouth? It may be a literal sword, but more likely it is His Word. Remember, one name for Christ is Word (John 1:1, 14). Remember also that the Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17). It is entirely possible that Christ will deal His death blow to these enemies merely by speaking a word.

Further we see that He has on His robe and thigh a name written, "**King of kings and Lord of lords.**" This great army of Heaven, consisting of all the saved believers will take part in the triumph of their King.<sup>11</sup> He will rule as with an iron scepter ( Psalm 2:9). He will tread the wine-press of the wrath of God:

Revelation 14:19-20 NAS:

<sup>19</sup> *So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God.*

<sup>20</sup> *And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.*

As Jesus destroys His enemies, He will reveal Himself as the King of kings and the Lord of lords, having divine power and glory from everlasting to everlasting.<sup>12</sup>

Revelation 19:17-21 NAS:

<sup>17</sup> *Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "**Come, assemble for the great supper of God,***

<sup>18</sup> *so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of **all men**, both free men and slaves, and small and great."*

<sup>19</sup> *And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.*

<sup>10</sup> – *New Testament Volume 2*, (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1921), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 644-647.

<sup>11</sup> Isaiah 66:16, Isaiah 11:4; 2, Thessalonians 2:8.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> *And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.*  
<sup>21</sup> *And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.*

This is a gruesome announcement in a horrifying scene. There is a sense here of finality. It is all over for the forces and followers of evil, and there is no escaping the inevitable judgment. What a difference between this scene and the happy and joyous scene at the marriage-supper of the Lamb. Verses 17 and 18 describe the corpses of the enemies of God, lying unburied. This was a shameful fate in Old Testament times because it meant that the bodies would become food for the birds.

So the time has come for the forces of evil to assemble for a last great and desperate, but futile, effort to defeat God and establish the kingdom of Satan. And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet that performed the miracles before him, by which he deceived those who had accepted the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. While still alive, these two were thrown into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. This is the final overthrow of the beast, the kingdom of Antichrist, of his false prophet, and of all those who had become the servants of the beast by receiving his mark on their forehead or on their hand.