

## **“The Story of the King: The King is Coming Again”**

Revelation 19:11-16

At the lowest ebb, after several setbacks and in debt, the great German composer George Fredric Handel set out to compose a musical with words taken from the Book of Isaiah and the Gospels. He intended to depict Christ's life, death resurrection eternal glory and the concept of redemption. During the summer of 1741 over a period of 24 days and nights, he worked tirelessly, barely stopping to eat or sleep, which resulted in his masterpiece, “Messiah.” He later recounted, “I saw the great God himself, on his throne and all his company of Angels.” Handel’s “Messiah” was first performed at Fishamble Street, Dublin as part of a charity series of concerts that he was invited to give by the Lord Lieutenant with Handel leading the performance from the harpsichord. “Messiah” was repeatedly revised by Handel, reaching its most familiar version in the performance to benefit the Foundling Hospital of London in 1754. It is one of the most popular works in the Western choral canon.

The most famous movement is the “Hallelujah” chorus, which concludes the second of the three parts. The lyrics are drawn from three passages in the book of Revelation: Chapter 19:6, 11, 15 and 16.

In many parts of the world, it is the accepted practice for the audience to stand for this section of the performance. Tradition has it that this originated at the Messiah's first performance in London. King George II stood up at the end of the Hallelujah Chorus, and the rest of the audience followed his lead. Since then, millions upon millions have stood to their feet as the chorus has played.

Handel recognized what you and I recognize, which is what John recognized as it was revealed to him on the isle of Patmos and recorded in the last book of the Bible. Jesus Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and as the King, we can be sure that He is coming again to rule and establish His reign.

The King is coming is the message of the OT; the King is here is the message of the gospels; the King is coming again is the message of the NT.

In the gospels, Jesus said much about the future and what His disciples can expect. David Jeremiah has pointed out several ways in which Jesus related to the future:

- Jesus referred often to the future
- Jesus rebuked people for not knowing about the future
- Jesus related future truth to present situations
- Jesus revealed the future so that His disciples would rest in Him<sup>1</sup>

Jesus had a lot to say about His second coming:

**Matthew 24:30 - “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.”**

**Matthew 24:42 - “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.”**

**Matthew 24:44 - “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”**

**Matthew 25:13 - “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”**

**John 14:3 - “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.”**

Jesus was very clear and upfront by saying that one day He will return, and none of us know when that day will be.

World history is barreling toward a conclusion, and the conclusion is recorded for us in the pages of Scripture. The story of the King culminates with the second coming of Christ.

---

<sup>1</sup> David Jeremiah, *Until Christ Returns: Living Faithfully Today While We Wait for our Glorious Tomorrow* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999), 7-10.

**John MacArthur** - *“One ironic thing is that we live in a time when even the scoffers are in a state of rather fearful expectation. The frightening potential of a worldwide destruction exists on several levels. Even the most impassioned secularists must acknowledge the very real potential that the world as we know it could end at any time--through nuclear war, a nuclear accident, an energy crisis, various ecological disasters, new killer viruses, or even a cosmic collision of some kind. In fact, most people recognize that this world cannot exist forever. And we face constant reminders of this.”*<sup>2</sup>

Of the 351 prophecies fulfilled by Christ, approximately 100 of those were fulfilled in His first advent. That means more than 250 are yet to be fulfilled, showing us that Scripture has more to say about the Second Coming of the King than it does about His first coming.

The fourth chapter of Luke says that Jesus began His public ministry by going into the synagogue in His hometown of Nazareth. He stood up and read from Isaiah 61 verbatim:

**Luke 4:18-19 - “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”**

The very next verse says that Jesus then closed the book, and began to say to them in the synagogue, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

What is amazing is that when we go to Isaiah 61, we notice that Jesus stopped in the middle of a sentence when He closed the book.

**Isaiah 61:1-3 - “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has appointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day**

---

<sup>2</sup> John MacArthur, *The Second Coming: Signs of Christ's Return and the End of the Age* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1999).27-28.

**of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.**”

The first part of Isaiah’s prophecy was fulfilled in the King’s first advent; the second part of the prophecy will be fulfilled at the King’s second advent. He is coming again!

**Zechariah 14:4-9 - “And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley...Thus the Lord my God will come, and all the saints with You...And the Lord shall be King over all the earth.”**

This is precisely the vision of the King that John was given as he records it in the book of Revelation. John sees a glimpse of the King in all of His glory and splendor, coming on the clouds of heaven, with ten thousands of His saints.

From this passage in Revelation 19, there are three major emphases given about the King who is coming again, and we all need to take note of these.

### **1. He is the RELIABLE one in whom we trust**

*“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True.”*

When the King comes again, it will not be as a Child but as a Conqueror.

When Jesus came the first time, He made His entrance into this world through the womb of a virgin peasant girl, made a feeding trough His crib, and lived the life of a peasant. He came riding a donkey into the city of Jerusalem, where a week later, He was condemned to die on a cross.

The King’s first coming was about humiliation; the King’s second coming will be about exaltation. His first advent was for the purpose of suffering; His second advent will be for the purpose of subjugating. When He first came, He came to secure our eternal

redemption; when He comes again, He will come to set up His earthly rule. In His first coming, He came to justify; in His second coming, He will come to judge.

All of this is seen in the significance behind the “white horse” Jesus will be seated on.

This would have been familiar imagery in the first century world. Roman generals who had been successful in combat would ride through their conquered territory on a white horse.

The “white horse” also symbolizes the spotless and holy character of the Rider. This is further seen in the names that the Rider possesses--He is Faithful and True.

**“Faithful”** - *He will perform what He has promised*

**“True”** - *What He has promised is accurate and totally trustworthy*

His faithfulness and truth stand in contrast to the unfaithfulness and falsehood that abounds in the world. The Seed of the Serpent is unfaithful and a liar, yet the Seed of the Woman is Faithful and True. He has crushed the serpent’s head.

We live in a world of broken promises and broken people. The King who is coming again is Faithful and True. This means that in a world in which we wonder if anyone can ever be trusted, the King will not disappoint. He is the reliable One in whom we can safely place our trust.

Our confidence in Him will not be shattered.

## **2. He is the RIGHTEOUS one in whom we rest**

*“...and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written that no one knows but Himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which He is called is The Word of God.”*

With vivid detail, John describes the majesty of this King who is coming again, each of which reflect His perfect righteousness. He mentions several things:

### The look in the King's eyes

His eyes are like a flame of fire! Scripture has much to say about the eyes of the Lord:

**2 Chronicles 16:9** - “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.”

**Job 34:21** - “For His eyes are on the ways of man, and He sees all his steps.”

**Psalm 32:8** - “I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.”

**Psalm 33:18** - “Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy.”

**Proverbs 15:3** - “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.”

**Hebrews 4:13** - “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.”

**John Wooden** - *“Material possessions, winning scores, and great reputations are meaningless in the eyes of the Lord, because He knows what we really are and that is all that matters.”*

### The crowns on the King's head

**“Diadems”** - *refers to a crown worn by a ruler that indicates royal rank and regal authority; ‘many’ diadems indicates He alone is the sovereign King over all the earth*

The fact that He wears many crowns shows Him to be the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

**Revelation 11:15** - “The kingdoms of the world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

This is what David spoke prophetically of:

**Psalm 2:7-9 - “I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.”**

In His humiliation, the King wore a crown of thorns; in His exaltation, the King will wear the crowns of the nations.

#### The mystery of the King’s name

John sees in His vision that Jesus has a name written on Him which no one knows but himself, indicating that as God His thoughts are not our thoughts, and His ways are not our ways.

His name is Wonderful, and it is far surpassing and transcendent than our small, finite minds can fully understand.

#### The color of the King’s robe

His robe is dipped in blood. This time, it is not stained with His blood but with the blood of His enemies. When He comes again in all His majesty and glory, He will not be coming to spill His own blood but will shed the blood of those who oppose Him.

It will be mistakably clear as to who this righteous King is when He comes at His glorious appearing. He is none other than the Word of God, the One whom the writer of Hebrews says is:

**Hebrews 1:3 - “...the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person.”**

It means that He is the complete revelation of God Himself.

### **3. He is the RULING one to whom we bow**

*“And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the*

*nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.”*

#### The warriors who accompany the King

At His glorious appearing, He will be coming to establish His reign upon the earth, and He will not be coming alone, for the Bible says that the armies of heaven will be coming with Him on that day. Who are these? This is His church triumphant.

Glorified believers will be following close behind the King!

#### The weapon that belongs to the King

Notice that the armies that follow Him possess no weapons of their own. The only weapon that is made mention of is the sharp sword which comes from the King’s mouth, which refers to His authoritative Word.

#### The wrath that comes from the King

John says that on that day, the Lord Jesus will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

This is a vivid symbol of the ancient practice of stomping on grapes to squeeze out their juice as part of the wine-making process. It conveys the idea that Christ’s enemies will be completely under His feet.

#### **4. He is the RETURNING one on whom we wait**

The King is coming again, and this thought should serve to motivate us as His disciples to live intentionally on mission. Because Jesus is coming again, we wait patiently, but we do not wait passively! While waiting:

- We should REPENT and trust in Him
- We should RESPOND in total obedience
- We should REMEMBER His sacrifice

- We should RELATE to one another in love
- We should REFUSE to neglect His church
- We should REACH our world by making disciples

Now is the time for men and women to be saved. Now is the time for the nations to turn from sin and trust in this King who suffered, bled, and died so that we might live. This is the message of the Bible from cover to cover, from Genesis to Revelation. It all points us to the salvation which is found only in Jesus Christ.