

Sooke Baptist Church

Sunday, October 31, 2021

**9:30 am, In-person**

also on Facebook and YouTube



**THE  
RIDER  
ON THE  
WHITE  
HORSE**

and a war never fought  
Revelation 19:11-21

Coffee/Question:

"Courage is knowing what not  
to fear." (Plato)

Do you agree? Why? Why not?

**03:00**

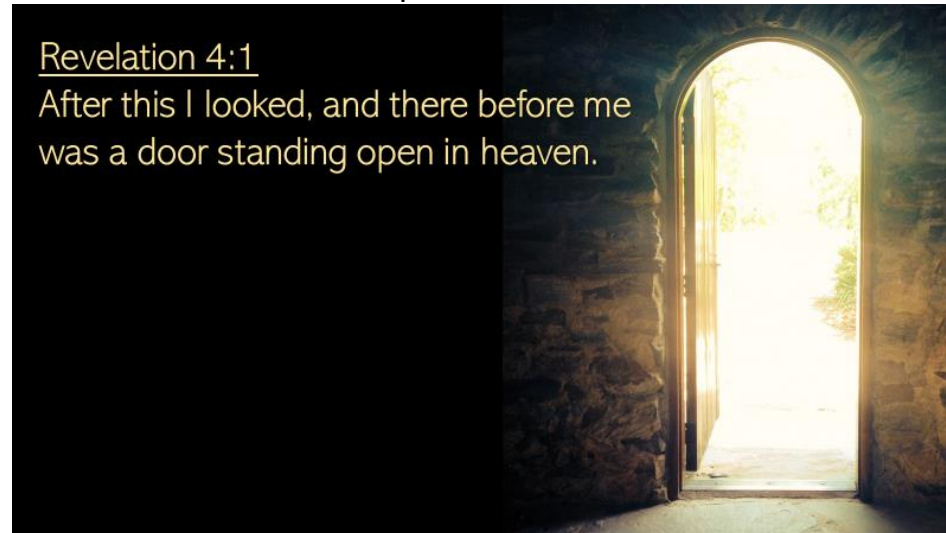


Revelation 19:11-21



## 19:11 – I saw heaven standing open...

The first time this verb “open” is used was in 4:1...



What John saw through the open door was a throne with someone sitting on it, who held a scroll sealed with seven seals.

But when an angel asked, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” there was no one... in heaven or on the earth or under the earth found worthy.

No one, that is, until the Lion of the tribe of Judah stepped forward, who is the Root of David, and who has triumphed.

When John turned to look at the Lion, what he saw was a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain.

The Lion, who is a Lamb...



...opened every one of the seven seals, which led to the sounding of seven trumpets, which culminated with all of heaven singing, 11:15,

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah and he will reign for ever and ever.”



Revelation 11:15

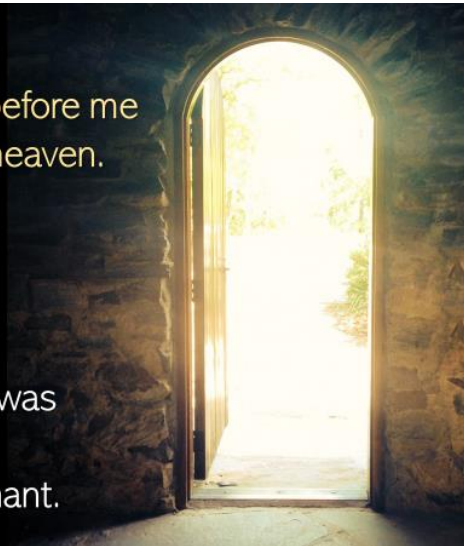
The second time this verb “open” was used is in 11:19...

Revelation 4:1

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven.

Revelation 11:19

Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of the covenant.



As John look into the temple in heaven, **“a great sign appeared in heaven.”** He saw a woman about to give birth to a male child, who as 12:5 says,



**“...will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.”**

**Then another sign appeared in heaven.**

John saw a great red dragon, who is called the devil attempt to kill the child.

But God intervened and snatched the child up into heaven.

And the woman?

She fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God.

Then John saw “war break out in heaven.”

It was a war which resulted in the great dragon and the angels aligned with him... being hurled down to the earth.

Furious...the dragon waged war against the child’s disciples, not directly, but through human political and religious power which he manipulated.

This war continued until... as 14:14,16 says...

Revelation 14:14,16

“...one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head [came] with a sharp sickle in his hand... [and harvested] the earth.”

Then John saw, 15:1, “another great and marvelous sign.”

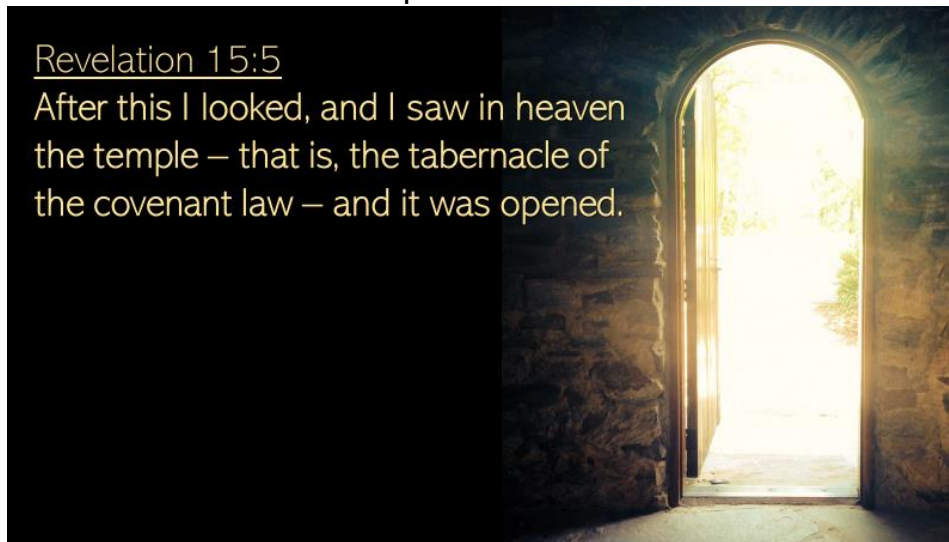
He saw the people of God who had been victorious... over the devil and over political and religious powers manipulated by the devil to carry out his will... singing the song of Moses and of the Lamb, 15:3-4



“Great and marvelous are your deeds,  
Lord God Almighty.  
Just and true are your ways,  
King of the nations.  
Who will not fear you, Lord,  
and bring glory to your name?  
For you alone are holy.  
All nations will come and worship before you.  
For your righteous acts have been revealed.”

Revelation 15:3-4

The third time the verb “open” was used is in 15:5...



Revelation 15:5

After this I looked, and I saw in heaven the temple – that is, the tabernacle of the covenant law – and it was opened.

As John looked into heaven, he saw the four living creatures give to seven angels seven bowls filled with the wrath of God who lives for ever and ever.

These seven angels were commanded to pour out upon the earth God’s judgment, which resulted in “Babylon,” a code name for human culture without God, being held accountable for its moral and spiritual corruption... and for the harm it has brought upon God’s people.

The judgement by God of “Babylon” culminated in heaven shouting out four times... “Hallelujah!” as they praised God for doing what he had promised he would do – rescue a great company of human beings from sin and death and bring them into an enduring covenant relationship with himself.



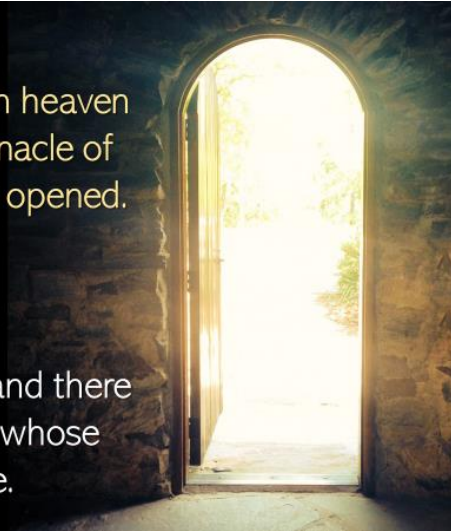
And now this same verb “open”... is used for a fourth time...

Revelation 15:5

After this I looked, and I saw in heaven the temple – that is, the tabernacle of the covenant law – and it was opened.

Revelation 19:11

I saw heaven standing open, and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True.



The rider whom John saw is the person of Jesus Christ.

I’ve said this a number of times... and I must say it again... the book of Revelation is a discipleship primer... that encourages and equips the people of God to follow our Lord Jesus wholeheartedly in a world that is not our home.

This is why the focus of the Revelation, from start to finish, is on the person of Jesus Christ.

John saw Jesus riding a white horse.

What is the significance of this picture?

Darrell Johnson explains...

“In the first century, when a king rode a horse, he was riding to war. If he rode a donkey he was riding to peace.”

Darrell Johnson

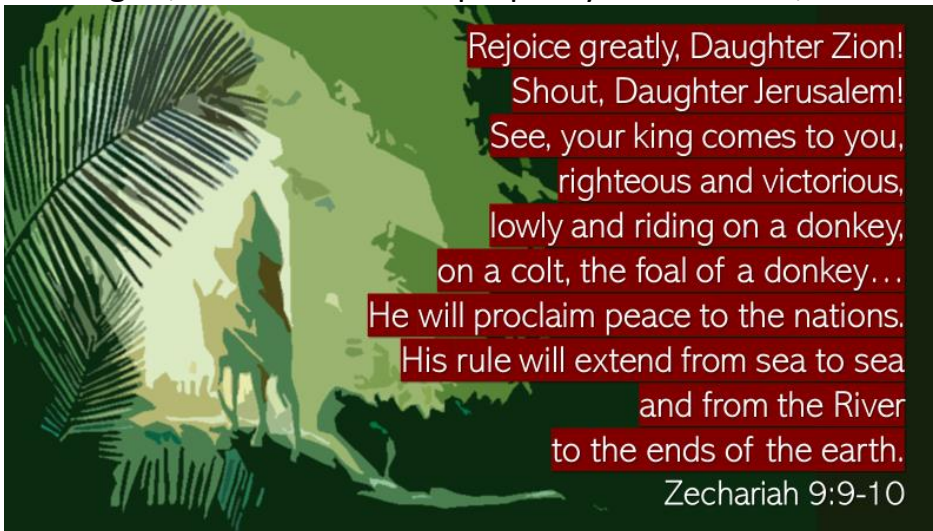
p.323.

What did Jesus ride upon when he came into Jerusalem, on the day we call Palm Sunday?

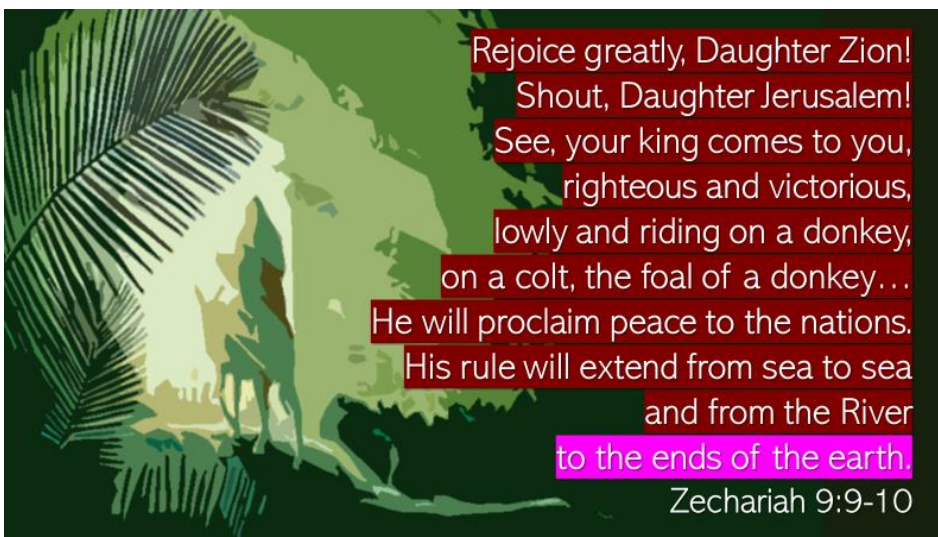


He rode a donkey.

In doing so, Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah, 9:9-10...



Since the resurrection and ascension of Jesus into heaven, the rule of Jesus has been extended...



...“to the ends of the earth” as individuals believe in Jesus and receive him as their Savior and King.

In the vision seen by John in chapter 19... Jesus is not riding a donkey, but a white horse.

Throughout church history this scene in Revelation 19 has been spoken of as “the final battle.”

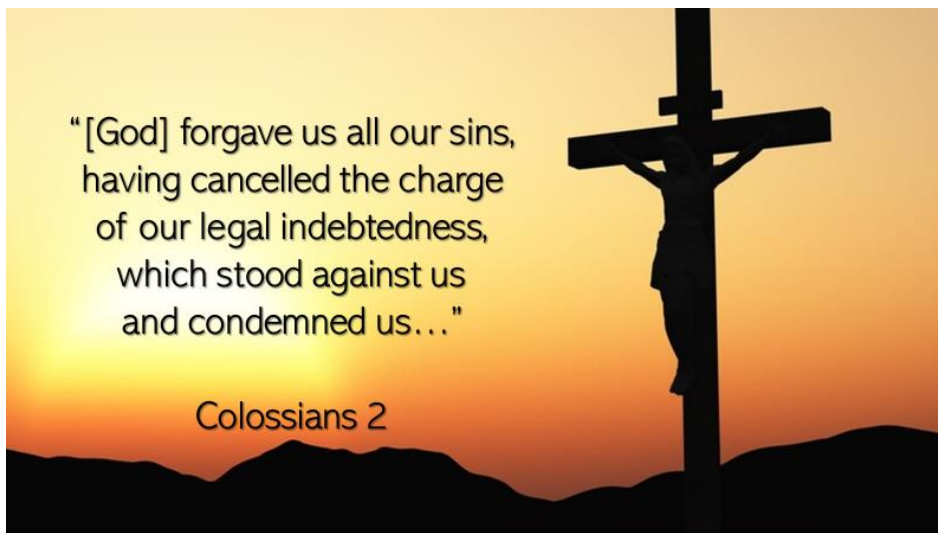
What is important for you and I to understand is that the final battle... is not to be fought in the future.

It has already been fought... and won....



...2000 years ago... upon the cross.

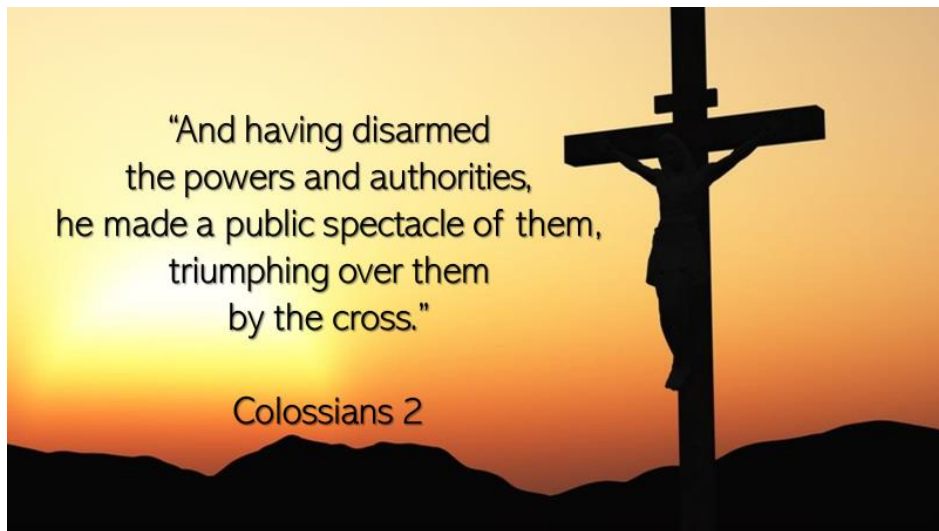
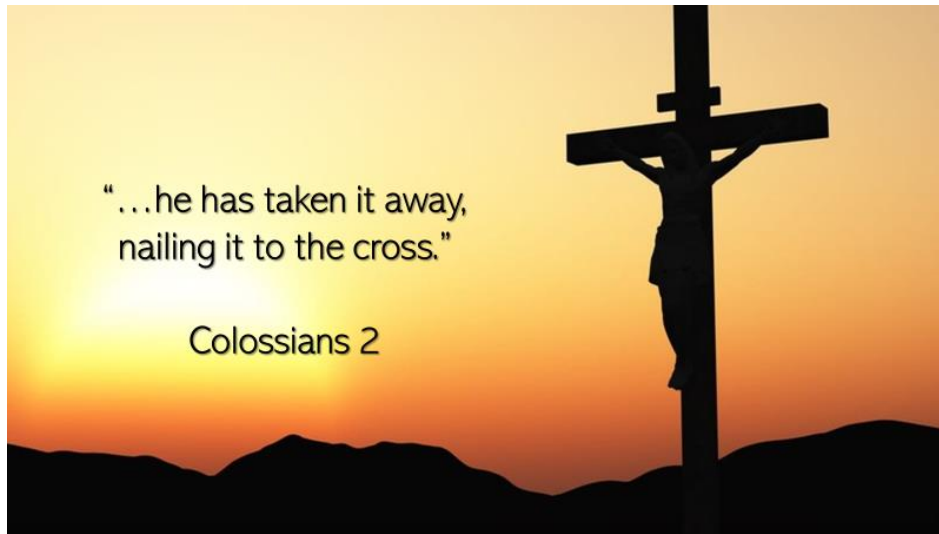
Look at Colossians 2:13b-15...



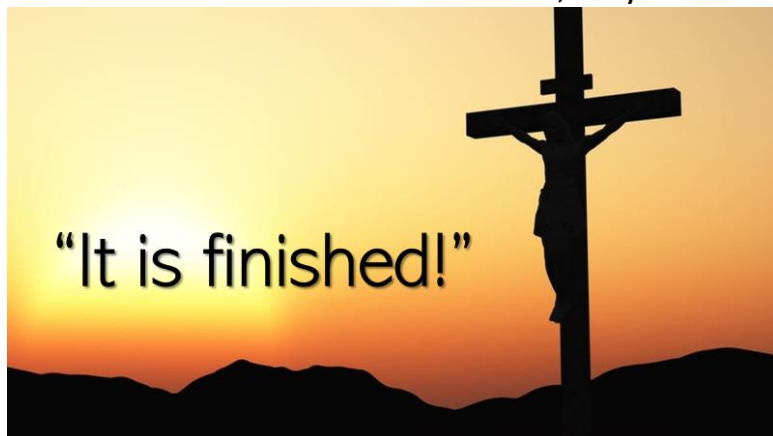
“[God] forgave us all our sins,  
having cancelled the charge  
of our legal indebtedness,  
which stood against us  
and condemned us...”

Colossians 2





Satan, and all the fallen angels aligned with him, thought they had won the war against God, when Jesus was condemned to die and then nailed to a Roman cross. But before Jesus drew his last breath, do you remember what he shouted out?



... which meant... “It is paid in full.”

Too late, the dark powers and authorities discovered that the cross of Jesus, was not their victory, but their undoing, their defeat.

It is true as Revelation 16:13-14 says...

Revelation 16:13-14

...impure spirits...come out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

[These impure spirits] are demonic spirits that perform signs and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

...that fallen angels will deceive humanity to war against God...  
... and against the rider on the horse and his army.

Revelation 16:13-14

...impure spirits...come out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. [These impure spirits] are demonic spirits that perform signs and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

Revelation 19:19

Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army.

What this scene in Revelation 19 is showing to us is the insanity of sin.

Because Jesus in this present time rules in the midst of his enemies, his enemies have foolishly concluded that his doing so is a sign of weakness and means there is a possibility to yet overthrow God.

For the purpose of emboldening his people, God purposefully focuses the attention of his followers, upon the rider... and not the combined strength of the alliance of fallen humanity and angels.

Look at who the rider is.

Revelation 19

verse 11c – he is called “Faithful” and “True.”

Throughout his entire life upon the earth, Jesus was faithful to the Father. He carried out the Father’s will in every instance...

**24/7/365/33.5**

There were no “skeletons” in Jesus’ closet.

There were no buried secrets that if discovered would have discredited him.

Do you remember when Jesus stood before the Sanhedrin and then Pilate? Witness after witness came... and presented as evidence... ridiculous lies which were easily proven to be false.

The rider is the Lord Jesus... and he is Faithful and True.

Revelation 19

verse 11c – he is called “Faithful” and “True.”

verse 11d – With justice he judges and wages war.

By virtue of who Jesus is...the Faithful One...the True One... he is... and is uniquely capable to function as the Judge of the earth.

Yes, he wages war.

But as we shall see, this will be a war unlike any the earth has never seen.

Look at v.12a

Revelation 19

verse 11c – he is called “Faithful” and “True.”

verse 12a – “his eyes are like blazing fire...”

What this means is that Jesus sees everything.

Nothing is hidden from him.



Look at v.12b –

Revelation 19

verse 11c – he is called “Faithful” and “True.”

verse 12a – “his eyes are like blazing fire...”

verse 12b – “on his head are many crowns.”

Bruce Metzger explains...

**In the first century it was not uncommon for a monarch to wear more than one crown in order to show that he was king of more than one country.** DJ, p.325

Jesus wears many crowns because... he is sovereign in every sphere, seen and unseen!

Look at vb.12c

Revelation 19

verse 11c – he is called “Faithful” and “True.”

verse 12a – “his eyes are like blazing fire...”

verse 12b – “on his head are many crowns.”

verse 12c – “He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.”

In the first century, it was thought if you knew a god’s name, then you could exercise a certain level of control over them.

Without question...Jesus makes himself available to all who call on his name. But Jesus is not under the control of anybody...he is no one’s personal genie.

There is something else here.

The character of the triune God is made known by the names he uses to reveal himself.

These are but some of the names belonging to Jesus.

**Lord, Savior, the Word, Son of God, Son of Man,  
Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God,  
the Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,  
the Lamb of God, the Bread of Life,  
the Light of the world, the good Shepherd,  
the Resurrection and the Life, the bright Morning Star,  
the Way, the Truth, the Life, the True Vine**

What Revelation 19:12 is making known to the reader is that the person of Jesus is so magnificent, so indescribable... that for all of eternity, he will continue to reveal himself to his people in increasing ways.

Look at v.13a –

Revelation 19

verse 11c – he is called “Faithful” and “True.”

verse 12a – “his eyes are like blazing fire...”

verse 12b – “on his head are many crowns.”

verse 12c – “He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.”

verse 13a – “He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood...”

Whose blood is on the robe of Jesus?

1 Peter 1:18

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Revelation 1:5

... Jesus Christ... loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood...

This verse... explains the context and meaning of verse 15b – **He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.**

On the cross, outside of the city of Jerusalem (see Revelation 14:20), Jesus took on to himself the full measure of the wrath of God for the sins of humanity.

The blood that stains the robe of the rider... our Lord Jesus... is his own.

This also explains why the armies of heaven are dressed as they are.

Look at v.14 – they are not dressed in defensive armor.

They do not carry weapons with which to attack.

Look at what they wear!

**fine linen, white and clean**

In the Bible, linen is what priests wear.

In Revelation 19:8, fine linen, bright and clean... is what the bride of Jesus, the church wears.

The armies of heaven, which ride with Jesus, are dressed in fine linen, white and clean, because the war is over.

If that is the case, then why do they ride?

They ride to put into effect the victory won long ago upon the cross.

And how exactly will this be done?

Look at v.13b –

Revelation 19

verse 11c – he is called “Faithful” and “True.”

verse 12a – “his eyes are like blazing fire...”

verse 12b – “on his head are many crowns.”

verse 12c – “He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.”

verse 13a – “He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood...”

verse 13b – “his name is the Word of God.”

This name ...the Word...is the one used in the gospel of John in reference to Jesus.

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word,

and the Word was with God,

and the Word was God...

Through him all things were made...

In him was life,

and that life was the light of all mankind....

The Word became flesh

and made his dwelling among us.



John 1:1-18

We have seen his glory,  
the glory of **the one and only Son**,  
who came from the Father,  
full of grace and truth...

Grace and truth came through **Jesus Christ**.  
No one has seen God, but the one and only Son,  
**who is himself God**  
and is in closest relationship with the Father,  
has made him known.

To see Jesus is to see God...for he is "the exact representation of God's being"  
Hebrews 1:3

To hear Jesus is to hear God... for Jesus is the Word... of God.

Look at v.15a, 21a –

Revelation 19

verse 15a, 21a – "**Coming out of his mouth** is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron scepter... The [kings of the earth and their armies] were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse...

On the last day, Jesus deals with, that is, he defeats the combined armies of humanity who remain in rebellion towards God...along with all of their military might... **simply by speaking.**

The word which created all that is....will again speak...  
When he does it will be seen that our Lord Jesus is....

Look at v.16 –

Revelation 19

verse 15a, 21a – “Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron scepter. . . . The [kings of the earth and their armies] were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse. . .

verse 16 – And on his robe and on his thigh, he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

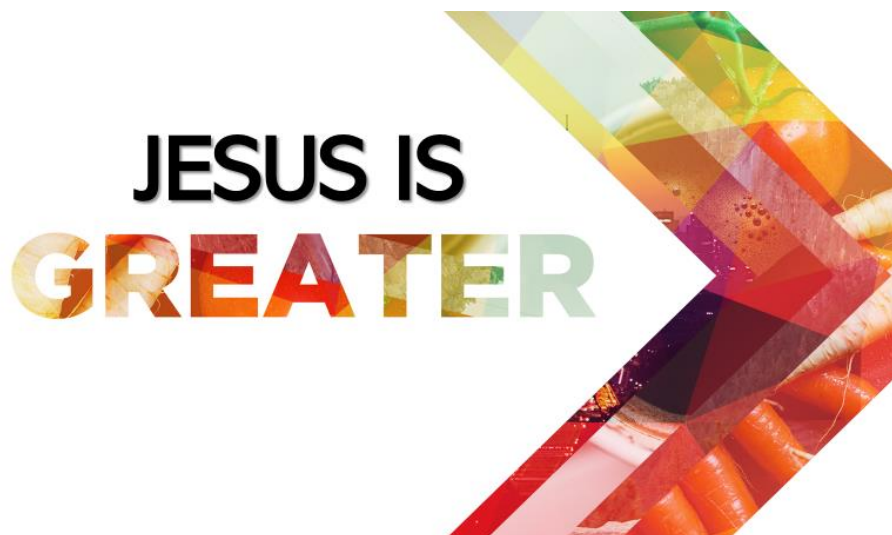
When John wrote the Revelation... Rome ruled.

When the emperor Caesar entered the Roman Senate, these words would be shouted to him: You are king of kings and lord of lords.”

What this vision powerfully communicated to the church in John’s day is that there is a king greater than Caesar.... Jesus is the King of kings; he is the LORD of lords.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ to his church was intended to fill the lives of God’s people with courage ... so that they would not lose heart.

This has been the intent of God in every generation since.



This is what the passage in Revelation 19 is describing.

When our Lord Jesus comes again with the armies of heaven following him... he will but speak... and this present time, which has been characterized by spiritual darkness... will end... and out of the ruin... caused by sin and death, our God will make every new.

Who Jesus will be at his return is who he now is...for he is the same, yesterday and today and forever.

The One who is Faithful and True...  
The One who is just and will judge the earth  
The One whose eyes are like blazing fire...  
The One upon whose head are many crowns...  
The One who has a name written on him that no one knows...

The One who shed his blood for us...  
The One who disarmed evil by the victory of the cross...  
The One who is the Word of God...  
The One who has a sharp sword coming out of his mouth...  
The One who rules in the midst of his enemies... with an iron scepter...  
The One who is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords...

...in this present time...he makes his home in us...  
...he leads us day by day, like a shepherd who leads his sheep...  
...he manifests his presence among us as we gather in his name...  
...he teaches us as we read, study and think upon the written Word...and he does so, in our personal times, as well as when we study together...  
...he empowers us as we serve others in his name.

This is the One... who guards our hearts and minds.  
This is the One... to whom we have entrusted our lives.  
This is the One... who in this present time, turns evil's intent to harm... into good...into the saving of many lives.

He is good and his mercy endures forever.