

Revelation
A Wednesday Night Bible Study

Lesson #61

12/12/2007

The King Is Coming Part 3

19:11-16

In the previous lesson we listed the six names for Jesus that are given to us in this passage: 1) **Faithful**; 2) **True**; 3) **An unknown name**; 4) **The Word of God**; 5) **KING OF KINGS**; 6) **LORD OF LORDS**. We also concluded our study by observing that, since God entitles the book, "**The Revelation of Jesus Christ**" (Rev. 1:1), we should carefully examine what He has told us in these verses about Jesus. Though several descriptions of Jesus have previously been presented in this marvelous book, this passage in Chapter nineteen focuses our attention upon our Lord with a new intensity. In the manner that God has directed our attention to our Lord, and so awesomely presented God the Son, we are acutely reminded that this book is not primarily about apocalyptic events, but about Jesus Christ, just like we were told in its beginning. With this reminder we now concentrate our attention upon His fourth name which is presented in this passage:

"And his name is called The Word of God."

Most students of the holy Scriptures will immediately recognize that we have read this name before. It was first presented in John 1:1.

"In the beginning was the Word; and the Word was with God; and the Word was God." John, whom God had selected as His scribe to record this "**Revelation of Jesus Christ**," was also the writer through whom God dictated the revelation known as the Gospel of John. The words found in that Gospel were no more the words of the writer than are the words found here in Revelation. They are words precisely dictated by God to the writer to tell us exactly what God wants us to know. As such, they deserve our best effort to examine and attempt to comprehend their fantastic meanings.

With the words God dictated in John 1:1, God conveyed and emphasized several very special truths about Jesus Christ, God the Son.

First, with the verb tense which God directed John to write, which was a durative imperfect of the verb "**was**," God stressed the eternal nature and pre-existence of God the Son. (The imperfect tense in the Greek language, something we do not have in English, stresses "**the continuous action of something in the past**.") Another way of translating this in John 1:1 would have been, "**When the beginning began, the Word always had been**." The same would apply to the second and third phrases of John 1:1. In relationship to this, it is appropriate to note that He Who always has been is also the Creator Who created all things, including "**time**," which is a numerical measurement of the passing of events on this earth (John 1:3; Colossians 1:15-17). The inclusion of this name for Jesus Christ in our present context is a strong reminder of His pre-existent deity. Lest there be any uncertainty about this, in dictating the words of John 1:1, God used the same verb two other times as He added the other two phrases to verse one:

Revelation 19:11 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.

Revelation 19:12 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.

Revelation 19:13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

Revelation 19:14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

Revelation 19:15 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.

Revelation 19:16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

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“... (2) and the Word was with God; (3) and the Word was God.”

The second phrase, better translated would read, *“the Word always has been equal with and in an equal relationship with God the Father.”* **The third phrase** would, in a more literal and accurate translation, read, *“And God always has been the Word.”* In the passage in the Gospel God went on to tell us *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”*

Second, by selecting the expression, **“the Word,”** as a name for God the Son, God forcefully and clearly communicated another very important truth about Himself to man as He continued to manifest Himself. The Greek word for **“Word”** is **logos**. When John wrote the expression which God dictated to him, and used **logos** (other Greek words could have been selected to communicate a similar expression) he used a word which already had an elevated place in the minds of the people of that day. **“Logos”** meant wisdom, knowledge, intelligence, reason, design and logic. The Greek philosophers had even elevated “logos” to the role of deity, albeit an unknown one, and recognized that a god of wisdom, intelligence and logic existed, though they did not know that god. When God dictated what we know as the Gospel of John, He identified that One Who was revered and worshipped as God the Son.

With His use of **“the Word of God”** as one of the six names for Jesus in this passage God sets before us some critically important truths.

First, He is telling us that Jesus has an uncontestable right to do what He is described as doing in asserting His authority to conquer and judge because He is, and always has been, fully God. He is the **“Almighty God”** Who presented Himself to John at the beginning of this Revelation: *“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty”* (Rev. 1:8).

Second, He is telling us that it is fully logical and reasonable for Him to so exercise His authority in conquering, judging and punishing His enemies. Paul wrote to his young son in the faith, Timothy, about this very time: *“Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting. Amen”* (1 Timothy 6:15-16).

In Revelation 19:14 God continues His description:

“And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he

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The Lord has an army that shall come with Him and the description of some of the members of His army help us to identify some of those who make up His army. They are **“clothed in fine linen, white and clean.”** We have already read about those whom the Lord has so clothed. He clothed His bride this way: **“And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints”** (Rev. 19:8). Also, the tribulation saints who give their lives in His service are so clothed as we learned from the worship scene in Chapter seven: **“And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”** (Rev. 7:13-14).

In addition our Lord has previously told us of some He will bring with Him as He returns to conquer the wicked of this world. In the little book of Jude we read about a prophesy of Enoch, who lived about 3,500 years before Christ’s first coming, regarding this time: **“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints”** (Jude 14). And then, in His Olivet discourse, just before He gave Himself up to die on our cross, Jesus spoke about His second coming and told the Jews that when He returned He would be accompanied by His holy angels: **“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory”** (Matthew 25:31). It will indeed be an awesome and mighty army which accompanies God the Son upon His return, but His army will not be needed to defeat the enemy. He will do that alone and simply with the **“sharp sword”** that goes forth from His mouth. His spoken word expresses His omnipotent power. With it He created, from nothing, everything that exists. With it He simply said, **“I am,”** and those who came with swords and knives to arrest Him in the garden were blasted harmlessly to the ground. With it, and it alone, He shall destroy His enemies: **“...with it He shall smite the nations.”** No, the myriads of those who accompany Him, constituting His army, are not there to fight, only to claim the spoils and become kings and priests in His millennial kingdom.

As it has always been, and ever, for eternity shall be, He is not dependent upon any other for any thing, for He is totally complete within Himself. He invites them to join Him in His victory so that they might receive from Him, not give to Him.

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The **“sharp sword”** that emits from His mouth has always been an outward expression of His authority and His truthfulness. As mentioned previously, with His **“Word”** He created all things. Many of those who have doubted and mocked His accounts of having done this may well be targeted by this **“sharp sword”** that will bring defeat and destruction to all of His enemies. His holy **“Word,”** or expression of Himself, that flows out of His mouth has always been, not only the expression of veracity, but also its perfect standard for it is **“impossible for God to lie”** (Heb. 6:18). The truthfulness of all others can be measured against the standard of His veracity and only the ignorant or arrogant will doubt or challenge His truthfulness.

The **“sharp sword”** that flows from His mouth is also the most powerful instrument ever made available to man for it is the only instrument available that can penetrate the invisible spirit and soul of a man and separate, and then disclose, the secret thoughts and intents of a man. As God said in His holy **“Word:”** **“...the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do”** (Heb. 4:12-13).

Both of these functions of His **“Word,”** as a standard of truth and as a penetrator of man’s mind and thoughts, are positive and result in benefits for man. However, the results of His **“sharp sword”** this time will be destructive to all of His enemies. It is all that He needs to express His absolute and total authority over all. For all of these centuries He has suppressed it because He had a plan to offer grace, forgiveness, reconciliation and healing to all who have rebelled against Him. When He expressed Himself during these centuries it was primarily to offer salvation. That time is over. Now, He uses the very same instrument for another purpose. As the Psalmist says:

“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron: thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel” (Psalm 2:1,2,3,4,5,9).

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