REVELATION 19

The King Returns for His Throne

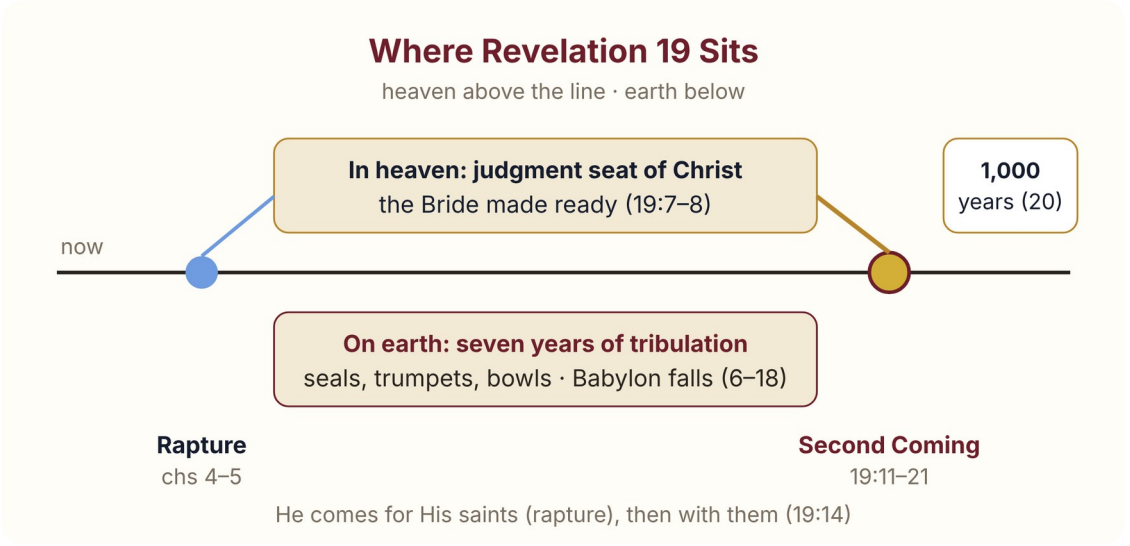
“And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.”
REVELATION 19:11

A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · WITH TSARFATI · MACARTHUR · GUZIK · HITCHCOCK · JEREMIAH

Where John has brought us

1. Chapter 18 ended in silence over a fallen city — no harp, no millstone, no lamp, no voice of bridegroom and bride — and with one command: “Rejoice over her, O heaven.”

2. Our teachers read Revelation as future history, in order: the church caught up before the tribulation (chapters 4–5), the seals, trumpets and bowls of the seven years (6–16), Babylon’s fall (17–18),…



Hallelujah over the Harlot

Heaven answers Babylon — three Hallelujahs, one Amen, and a call to praise

REVELATION 19:1

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;

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik suggests the great multitude is likely the martyrs, whose cry under the altar, "How long, O Lord?" (6:10), has now been answered.

JOHN MACARTHUR

MacArthur sets these verses between Babylon's fall and the Rider of verse 11: earth's merchants mourn in chapter 18, and heaven answers with praise.

AMIR TSARFATI

In Revealing Revelation Tsarfati hears a fourfold praise and draws the contrast that runs through it: joy over salvation on one side, judgment on a false religious and worldly system on the other.

Ἀλληλουϊά

HALLĒLOUIA · "PRAISE YAH"

A Hebrew word left untranslated in a Greek book: hallelu, "praise" — a plural command — and Yah, the short form of the divine name. It appears four times in the New Testament, and all four are here (19:1, 3, 4, 6).

The Marriage of the Lamb

The fourth Hallelujah — a reign begun, a bride ready, a guest list blessed

REVELATION 19:8

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.

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik traces the bride through Scripture — Israel as God's often-unfaithful wife (Hosea; Isaiah 54:5) and the church as Christ's betrothed (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25–27).

AMIR TSARFATI

We are the bride, Tsarfati says — and it is the Holy Spirit who makes the bride; whoever does not have the Spirit is not part of her.

MARK HITCHCOCK

For Hitchcock the timing here is one of the strongest arguments in the book.

ὁ γάμος τοῦ ἀρνίου

HO GAMOS TOU ARNIOU · "THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB"

Gamos is the wedding and its celebration — the word of the wedding-feast parable (Matthew 22) and of Cana (John 2:1). Arnion, "Lamb," is John's title for Christ throughout Revelation: the Bridegroom is the One who was slain.

The Rider Called Faithful and True

Heaven opened — a white horse, eyes of fire, many crowns, a robe dipped in blood

REVELATION 19:11

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.

JOHN MACARTHUR

MacArthur notices why heaven opens. In chapter 4 a door opened to let John in; here it opens ‘to not let us in but to let Him out’ — Isaiah’s prayer that God would rend the heavens and come down, answered.

DAVID JEREMIAH

Jeremiah sets the two comings side by side: at His first coming He was wrapped in swaddling clothes; at His second He is clothed royally in a robe dipped in blood.

DAVID GUZIK

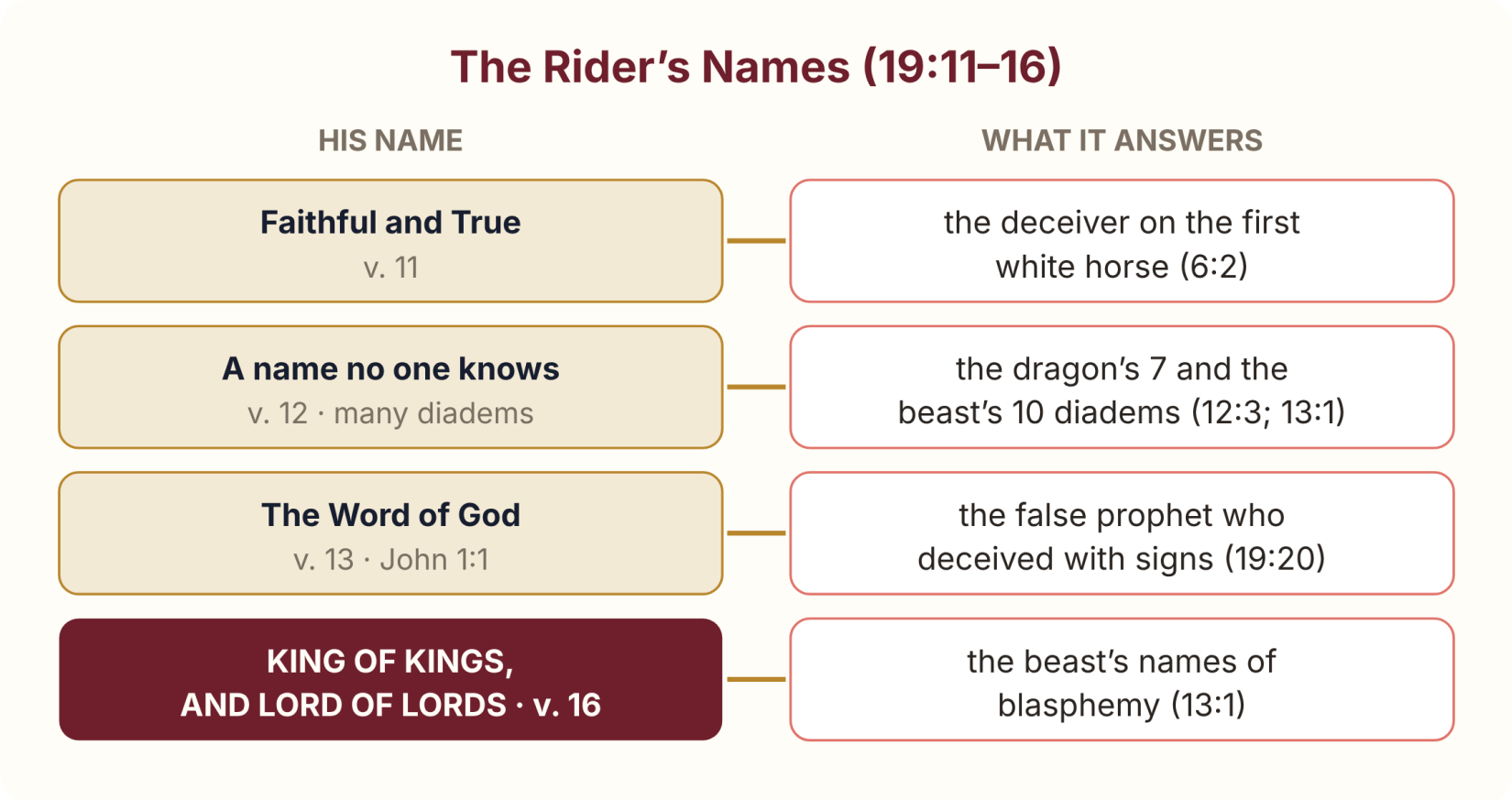
Guzik calls this the Second Coming — the climax of the book — and reads the Rider by His names: Faithful and True, the opposite of the deceiver on the first white horse; a name no one knows, because there is…

διαδήματα πολλά

DIADĒMATA POLLA · “MANY DIADEMS”

Revelation keeps two crowns apart. The stephanos (G4735) is the victor’s wreath — worn by the elders and promised to the faithful.

The Rider’s Names



Each name of the Rider in 19:11–16 answers a counterfeit earlier in the book.

King of Kings, and Lord of Lords

The armies in white, the sword from His mouth, the rod of iron, the name on His thigh

REVELATION 19:14

And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.

AMIR TSARFATI

The armies in white are not angels only, Tsarfati says; they wear the bride's own fine linen, white and clean — the saints taken up before the wrath now ride down behind their King.

JOHN MACARTHUR

MacArthur identifies the armies by their clothing: the fine linen is the bride's (v. 8), so the church is there; the tribulation saints are there; Old Testament saints likely come too (Jude 14), and angels…

MARK HITCHCOCK

Hitchcock reads the rod of iron forward into chapter 20.

ποιμανεῖ αὐτοὺς ἐν ῥάβδῳ σιδηρᾷ

POIMANEI EN RHABDŌ SIDĒRA · "HE WILL SHEPHERD THEM"

Poimainō means to shepherd. The NASB says "He will rule them with a rod of iron," following the Greek Old Testament of Psalm 2:9, but the verb is the shepherd's.

The Great Supper of God

An angel in the sun, birds at a feast, two thrown alive, and the rest slain by a word

REVELATION 19:18

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."

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik notes Newell's four suppers in Scripture — the supper of salvation (Luke 14), the Lord's Supper, the marriage supper of the Lamb, and the great supper of God.

AMIR TSARFATI

Tsarfati lives on a hill overlooking the Valley of Armageddon, and he says it does not frighten him — it gives him hope, because he expects to be taken out in the rapture before that chaos comes.

DAVID JEREMIAH

Jeremiah calls Armageddon the final showdown between good and evil on earth, with no bystanders.

τὸ δεῖπνον τὸ μέγα τοῦ θεοῦ
TO DEIPNON TO MEGA TOU THEOU · "THE GREAT SUPPER OF GOD"

Deipnon is the main meal of the day, the evening banquet — the same word as "the marriage supper of the Lamb" eight verses earlier. Two suppers, one word: at one the saints are guests; at the other the rebels are the meal.

Two Suppers



The same word, deipnon, names both tables in Revelation 19 — every person attends one.

What to carry from this chapter

1

Four Hallelujahs, and only here.

Hallēlouia appears four times in the New Testament, all in 19:1–6 — saved for the day God judged the world's system and began to reign.

2

"He reigns" means "He has begun to reign."

Ebasileusen in verse 6 is an aorist: God was always King, but now His rule takes visible possession of the earth.

3

The wedding is up there, not down here.

The church, made a bride by the Spirit, is with the Bridegroom in heaven while the tribulation runs on earth.

4

The harlot bought her linen; the bride was given hers.

Fine linen was Babylon's cargo and dress in chapter 18; in 19:8 it is a gift — "It was given to her."

More to carry

5

Heaven opens to let Him out.

In 4:1 a door opened so John could go up; in 19:11 all of heaven opens so the King can come down.

6

All the crowns are on one head.

The dragon wore seven diadems and the beast ten; the Rider wears many, and the diadēma is the crown of royal rule.

7

The sword is in His mouth, not His hand.

The saints in white carry no weapons; the war is won by a word (vv. 15, 21).

8

Everyone attends one of four suppers.

Newell counted the supper of salvation, the Lord's Supper, the marriage supper and the great supper of God — refuse the first and you attend the last.

Talk it through

1. Heaven sang “Hallelujah” over a judgment. What would have to change in you to praise God for His justice, not only His mercy?

2. If the bride’s linen is “the righteous acts of the saints,” what is being woven into your garment this week?

3. John bowed to the wrong one and was told, “worship God.” What good thing tempts you to stop one step short of Christ?

4. The Rider is called Faithful and True. Which of His promises is hardest for you to trust right now, and why?

5. Every person attends one of two suppers. How would you explain the difference to a man at your table who has never said yes?

CLOSING

Heaven opened once to name the Son at the Jordan; it opens here to crown Him. The bride is ready, the Rider is Faithful and True, and the war ends in a word. Hallelujah — the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

O·I·A study, slides, reflection journal and film: see the Revelation study page.