

REVELATION—UNVEILING THE END, ACT 3 THE FINAL CURTAIN

STUDY EIGHT

Here Comes the King of Kings

Revelation 19:11–21

Have you bowed before Jesus as King? Have you acknowledged that He is your Savior? If not, take care of that now, will you?

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

IMAGINE a family of four. Mom and Dad decide to take off for the weekend for some quality time together, and they leave their teenaged son and daughter home.

On Friday evening, Sister senses a tickle in her tummy, and by Saturday morning, she feels all the symptoms of the flu: nausea, headache, fatigue, chills. Brother, meanwhile, stands on the side of the highway waiting for a tow truck. He was texting while he was driving, and he drove right into the median. The family car was totaled.

How will each of these children respond when Mom and Dad get home?

Sister will rejoice to feel her parents' warm embrace, to enjoy a homemade cup of soup, to have them retrieve some medicine. Brother, however, dreads the moment when his parents see the wrecked car in the driveway, when he admits that he wasn't driving responsibly, when he hears their stern response.

There's nothing Sister can do to accelerate her parents' return, and there's nothing Brother can do to delay it. Mom and Dad *will* return, and when they do, the children will receive what they need—Sister her care and Brother his rebuke.

Just like these parents, Jesus has left earth for a time, but He *will* return. Heaven will open, and Jesus will lead the royal procession back down to earth to judge all humanity. We can do nothing to stop His return, but we can prepare for His arrival. This *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study explores how.



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PREPARE YOUR HEART

One of the distinguishing elements of Christianity is the hope we have in Jesus Christ. The hope of the gospel says that no matter how bad things get in your life or in this world, Jesus will return to set things right. He will replace sin with righteousness, death with life, and sorrow with joy. Take a moment to express your gratitude to God for offering you this hope through His Son.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

The reason we have hope that Jesus will return to restore God's good creation is because *He promised it*. And as Scripture reveals time and again, *God keeps His promises*.

Listen to what Jesus said to His disciples before He endured the cross:

“And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” (Matthew 24:30)

We don't know when Jesus will return, so Jesus calls us to be ready by remaining faithful. One way we can prepare for His return is by knowing what will happen when He returns. Let's now turn to John's recorded vision of Jesus' second advent in [Revelation 19:11–21](#).



Observation: The Return of the King

[Revelation 19:11–21](#) acts like a telescope that peers far into the future. Its scope is limited, so it won't show us everything we want to see. What it does reveal, however, is true and valuable. As you read John's vision, read slowly and carefully to observe as many details as possible.¹

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The King's Arrival—Revelation 19:11–16

What (or *whom*) did John see when heaven opened in *Revelation 19:11*? How did John describe the appearance of this figure in *19:12–13*?

Who accompanied this figure in *19:14*?

What names and titles did John say described this figure? Fill in the spaces below based on their corresponding verses.

19:11: _____

19:12: _____

19:13: _____

19:16: _____

The Battle's Description—Revelation 19:17–21

When John looked at Jesus, the returning King on His white horse, he observed, “From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress” (*Revelation 19:15*). Then, John saw the clash between this heavenly King and these wicked nations.

Who approached the one sitting on the horse in *Revelation 19:19*? What did they intend to do?

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What happened to the beast and the false prophet in *Revelation 19:20*?

What happened to the kings of the world in *19:21*?

Sit quietly and let the wonder in. This frightening scene will occur in a time yet future, though it reveals a part of the Lord God that is rarely even mentioned—His wrath. Being just, God must hold accountable those who live their entire lives rejecting Him. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Interpretation: Reasons for Christ's Return

Revelation 19:11–21 looks forward to the moment of Christ's return. This is the day to which every Christian looks with eager expectation. It is the substance of our hope. Both the Old and New Testaments promise this triumphal moment for several key reasons. Jesus must return to . . .

1. Judge the nations for their wickedness
2. Remove Satan from his earthly dominion
3. Establish Jesus' heavenly kingdom on earth

How do each of Jesus' various titles in *19:11–16* support the idea that He is the only true judge who can hold humankind accountable for its wickedness? For some help, look at Pastor Chuck Swindoll's Commentary, *Insights on Revelation*, or *Constable's Notes* at netbible.org.²

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Satan often extends his wickedness throughout the world by corrupting national rulers. His approach is crafty and efficient. Corrupt the king, and his kingdom will follow his lead.

This is why the apostle Paul said, “For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world” (*Ephesians 6:12*). In light of this truth, how will Jesus’ defeat of Satan at the battle of Armageddon reclaim total dominion over the earth?

John’s original readers lived under the oppressive rule of the Roman Empire. For the Romans, Caesar—and Caesar *alone*—was lord. How would the expression, “Jesus is Lord,” have hit the ears of loyal Romans? What does this reality reveal about the faith of the early Christians? How is their example instructive for citizens of the kingdom of heaven today?

Many of God’s promises remain to be fulfilled until Jesus returns to this earth. The nations are yet to be judged. Satan continues to have his way always under the permissive will of God. There will be no eternal kingdom until Jesus comes to rule and reign. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Correlation: A Royal Psalm

In *Revelation 19:15*, John observed King Jesus returning to earth to rule the nations “with an iron rod.” This image comes from *Psalms 2*, which is known as a *royal psalm*. These unique psalms look ahead to the coming of Israel’s Messiah—the future anointed king who would judge the wicked and vindicate the righteous.

This psalmist opened with a question: “Why do [the nations] waste their time with futile plans?” (*Psalms 2:1*). According to *Psalms 2:2–3*, what were these plans? According to *2:4–5*, why did the psalmist consider these plans futile?

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The psalmist concluded that God would foil these wicked plans. According to *Psalms 2:6–9*, how did He promise to defeat these evil nations?

What final warning did the psalmist offer to the rulers of these nations in *2:10–12*? How does this conclusion correlate with the message of *Revelation 19:11–21*?

The Messiah. Israel's promised King. Jesus Christ. He promised to return to *rule* the earth. When He comes, He will extend His mighty iron rod—from the least to the greatest—and at the sight of His heavenly glory, even kings will bow before Him.



Application: Every Knee Will Bow

What a day it will be when the royal procession from heaven to earth announces the return of the long-awaited King of creation in all His majesty, splendor, and glory! As the one true King, Jesus demonstrates absolute power in three distinct ways:

- His presence will set the final stage.
- His name will be the final authority.
- His word will win the final battle.

At Armageddon, Jesus Christ will control the entirety of the battle and its outcome. Satan and his army of earthly kings don't stand a chance. Though many powerful people throughout history have denied this truth, *everyone* will eventually bow the knee to the King of all kings, the Lord of all lords.

The apostle Paul told us:

*that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:10–11, emphasis added).*

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This truth points to the heart and asks one of life’s most important questions . . .

Have you bowed before Him?

If you have *not* made the choice to confess Jesus as King of your life, what’s stopping you? How would making this decision change your life for the better? If you *have* bent the knee, in what areas do you need to submit more fully to His royal rule?

When Jesus returns, everyone will fall to their knees before His awesome glory. Yet He will stand before two groups: those who swear their allegiance to Him, and those who deny His majesty. If you follow Him today, you have nothing to fear. You will be spared His wrath. You will experience His mercy. And you will enjoy an eternity with Him in the new creation.



A FINAL PRAYER

Father, I confess that Jesus—and Jesus alone—is King over all who would call themselves “king” and Lord over all who call themselves “lord.” I bend my knee to Him in total submission and obedience and swear my eternal allegiance to Him. Use me to show others that He is the only true, righteous, just, and good King. In His royal name I pray. Amen.

ENDNOTES

1. To learn more about Pastor Chuck Swindoll’s *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, go to the article, “[How Does Pastor Chuck Swindoll Study the Bible?](#)”
2. Charles R. Swindoll, *Insights on Revelation*, Swindoll’s Living Insights New Testament Commentary (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2014).

For the 2024 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* study was developed by Brad Smith, writer and content strategist, *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll’s messages. Copyright © 2004, 2024 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

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