

HWMR: EXPERIENCING, ENJOYING, AND EXPRESSING CHRIST (5) (Week 10)

**Christ—the Establisher of the Kingdom and
the Word of God—King of Kings and Lord of Lords**

Scripture Reading: *Rev. 20:1-6; 19:11-16, 19-21*

- Rev. 20:1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.
- Rev. 20:2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years
- Rev. 20:3 And cast him into the abyss and shut it and sealed it over him, that he might not deceive the nations any longer until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be loosed for a little while.
- Rev. 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and of those who had not worshipped the beast nor his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.
- Rev. 20:5 The rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.
- Rev. 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.
- Rev. 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.
- Rev. 19:12 And His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written which no one knows but Himself.
- Rev. 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.
- Rev. 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.
- Rev. 19:15 And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.
- Rev. 19:16 And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
- Rev. 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war with Him who sits on the horse and with His army.

Day 1

Rev. 20:1-2 - And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

I. Christ is the **Establisher of the kingdom**—Rev. 20:1-6:

- A. After fighting His enemies, Christ will establish the kingdom of God on the earth, the **millennial kingdom**, and reign with His overcoming believers for a thousand years—v. 2.
- B. The whole earth must be **cleared up** as a preparation for God's kingdom to come.
- C. Only one thing remains, and that is Satan, the source of all the problems.
- D. The first item mentioned in Revelation 20, a chapter concerning the millennium, is the **binding of Satan**:
 - 1. Although the Lord judged Satan **on the cross**, that judgment **has not yet been fully executed**.
 - 2. When the Lord **returns**, He will **fully execute the judgment** that He accomplished on the cross upon Satan.
 - 3. Satan will be bound and **cast into the abyss**, being powerless to act or damage anyone; then the earth will become Christ's kingdom.
- E. According to the prophecies of the Bible, the millennium is in two sections: the **upper, heavenly, section** and the **lower, earthly, section**:
 - 1. The **upper section** of the millennium is called the **kingdom of the Father** (Matt. 13:43), and the **lower section** is called the **kingdom of the Son of Man** (v. 41).
 - 2. The **kingdom of the Messiah**, or the Messianic kingdom, is another name for the lower section of the millennium.

God has His eyes on the kingdom. We also must have our eyes on the kingdom. What we see should not merely be the outward environment or even the present church life; instead, our eyes should be on the **kingdom**. Luke 12:32 says, “Do not be afraid, little flock, because your Father has been well pleased to give you the kingdom.” The Father is happy to give us His kingdom. **The kingdom is our portion**; it belongs to us.

The matter of the overcoming believers' reigning with Christ is a precious and crucial point that all believers must see. God's intention is not only for Christ to reign but also **for all the believers to reign together with Him**. We can see in Genesis 1 that God created man with the intention that man would reign. God's creation of man in that particular way points not only to the fact that Christ would have dominion but also to God's desire that **man would reign together with Christ, exercising God's dominion**.

When we believed into the Lord, we were brought into an organic union with Him. Ephesians 2:5-6 says, God “made us alive together with Christ...and raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus.” When Christ was raised up, we were raised up together **with Him**; we were made alive together **with Him** in the heavenlies. When He ascended and was seated on the throne, we were seated there together **with Him**. This is a great matter.

(The Ministry of the Word, vol. 30, No. 2, chapter 46)

When Christ comes to establish His kingdom, He will be the King ruling, but we must realize that He does not want to rule and reign alone; **He wants all of us to reign together with Him**. The goal of God's salvation is to **bring us all the way to this highest point**. God's salvation is not merely to save us from perdition, sin, and troubles. The highest goal of God's full salvation is to bring us to the throne, to the point where we can rule and reign with Christ. Romans 5:17 says, "*Much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.*" We need to be impressed by this. We should not be satisfied with a low level of salvation—merely to be delivered from sin and the world and perdition—because God's goal is to **save us to the throne**.

We are people of the throne. **God wants us to reign**. To reign is not to sit in a high place with a rod and a scepter, giving commands and telling others what to do.... All the aspects of God's organic salvation are aspects of our living a life of reigning with Christ. **A life of receiving one another, loving one another, and forgiving one another are all aspects of a life of reigning with Christ**. Our natural concept may be that to reign is to rule over others and give commands to others. However, to reign in life is the opposite of this. It means that we are **fully submitting** ourselves to Christ's life within us in order to live out, to express, all the virtues and riches of this life, both individually and corporately. All His virtues and riches are expressed in a life of reigning with Christ. To reign with Christ is our top portion and our top reward. All the overcomers will be brought into this condition of reigning with Christ in the millennium. In the eternal kingdom, after the one thousand years, all the believers will be priests and kings to God. (*The Ministry of the Word*, vol. 30, No. 2, chapter 46)

Day 2

Rev. 20:4-6 - And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and of those who had not worshipped the beast nor his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

F. Revelation 20:4-6 reveals that Christ as the Establisher of the kingdom **will reign with the overcoming saints**:

1. Because the overcomers bring in the kingdom of Jesus Christ, the Lord will reign for a thousand years, and the **overcomers will also reign with Christ** for a thousand years.
2. Revelation 20:4 says, "I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them":
 - a. The word *they* refers to the **overcomers**.
 - b. They are now sitting upon thrones, and authority to judge has been given to them:
 - (1) To have the **authority** to judge means to have the **kingdom**—cf. Dan. 7:10, 18, 22.
 - (2) Verse 4 in Revelation 20 indicates that the overcomers have **received** and are **enjoying** the kingdom.

- G. The overcomers **become qualified** to reign with Christ **by the humanity of Jesus** being worked into them—2:26.
- H. The overcomers who will reign with Christ in the millennium will enjoy the **best resurrection**:
 - 1. Revelation 20:6 speaks of “the first resurrection.”
 - 2. The first resurrection is also the “out-resurrection,” that is, the extraordinary resurrection for which the apostle Paul sought—Phil. 3:11.
- I. Revelation 20:6a says, “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection”; this must be the highest blessing—to **inherit the kingdom** manifested on earth and even to be the kings within it.
- J. “They will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years” (v. 6b); the overcomers will be **priests** to contact God and **co-kings** with Christ to reign over the nations in the millennium (2:26-27; 12:5).

Day 3

Rev. 19:11 - ...I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

Rev. 19:14 - And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

II. In Revelation 19:11-16 and 19-21 Christ is revealed as the **Word of God—King of kings and Lord of lords**:

- A. After His wedding feast (v. 7) Christ will come as a **fighting General with His bride**, the overcoming believers, who are His army, to fight Antichrist; **man will even wage war** directly against the Lord of lords and the King of kings:
 - 1. Antichrist, the false prophet, and the ten kings and their armies will make war against the Lamb.
 - 2. This war will be a fighting of the earth against the heavens, of **man against God**.
 - 3. Christ’s enemies will become all the more evil, even declaring **war against Him**.
 - 4. It is indeed astounding that man could actually declare war on God.
 - 5. Christ, the Bridegroom, will come with His bride to fight against them.
- B. “Behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war”—v. 11:
 - 1. *Faithful and True* will be a title of Christ.
 - 2. Christ is faithful both to **God** and to those **who believe in Him**.
 - 3. In His **faithfulness** **He defeats and destroys those who oppose** God and persecute the believers.
 - 4. He is also **true** in **carrying out God’s economy** and in caring for those who believe in Him.

Revelation 19:13b says, “*His name is called the Word of God.*” This indicates that the Lord Himself is the **Word of God**. John 1:1 says, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*” This Word brought life to us, brought grace and reality to us, and accomplished redemption for us. This is the Word revealed in the beginning of the Gospel of John. In Revelation 19, for His engaging the enemy in the ultimate battle at the end of this age, Christ is seen riding on a white horse with the name “the Word of God” (v. 13). As the **Word**, He is fighting not to give life, grace, and reality but to slay the enemy with the **sword proceeding from His mouth**. We need the Word for life, supply, and enjoyment, but we also need the Word for fighting. We are in a war whether we realize it or not. Amid this spiritual warfare, what is needed is the Word of God.

...**Without** His word, we are not only **short** of supply and direction but also have **no way** to fight against the enemy in this age of darkness, confusion, and lawlessness. The word of God needs to be **prevailing, victorious, and triumphant** among us. It is sad to hear that there is not much care for the word of God among Christians in many denominations. Instead, many care for their welfare and prosperity. The desire for the word of God is waning among the denominations, and many are deviating from the word of God. One of the greatest blessings in the Lord’s recovery is that the **word of God is among us**, not only to supply and enlighten us but also to equip us for fighting the spiritual warfare. (*The Ministry of the Word*, vol. 30, No. 2, chapter 46)

Day 4

- Rev. 19:12* - And His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written which no one knows but Himself.
- Rev. 19:15* - And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.
- 2 Thes. 2:8* - And then the lawless one will be revealed (whom the Lord Jesus will slay by the breath of His mouth and bring to nothing by the manifestation of His coming).

- C. **Christ is God’s faithful and true Witness** who sits on a white horse, judges in righteousness, and makes war:
1. **Christ will come back to fight** against Satan’s power of unrighteousness, which today operates in the world as the mystery of lawlessness and which will issue in Antichrist, the man of lawlessness—2 Thes. 2:3, 7-8.
 2. The **entire world is under** the satanic power of unrighteousness.
 3. In righteousness Christ will return to **make war against the unrighteousness** practiced by Antichrist and all his partners.
 4. Christ will not only judge in righteousness but also **fight in righteousness**; He judges by fighting.

Day 5

Rev. 19:13 - And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.

Rev. 19:15 - And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

- D. “His name is called the **Word of God**”—Rev. 19:13b:
1. This indicates that the **Lord Himself is the Word of God**.
 2. That the Lord’s name is called the Word of God means that He is the **expression**, the **testimony**, and the **speaking of God**.
 3. The Word of God is the **definition**, the **explanation**, and the **expression of God**.
 4. In order to know God, we need to **read**, **study**, **behold**, **contemplate**, and **gaze** on Christ as the Word of God.
- E. In Revelation 19, as the Word of God, Christ speaks for God **by executing God’s judgment** upon the rebellious people:
1. Even as the Lord fights, He **speaks for God** and **expresses God**.
 2. God is not a God of confusion; He is **righteous** and **sovereign**; He is also a God of order, and as such, He cannot tolerate disorder and rebellion.
 3. As Christ **fights** against the enemy, He will **speak** that God is sovereign, righteous, and orderly.
 4. He will **declare** that God is the God over everyone and that He does not tolerate rebellion against His authority.
 5. The Warrior is the Word; **His fighting is the speaking of God’s Word**.
 6. The Lord’s fighting in the war at Armageddon will be a **powerful speaking**:
 - a. It will **tell** Satan, Antichrist, the false prophet, and the entire universe that **God is sovereign and that no one can rebel against Him**.
 - b. The God of order will **sweep away all rebellion**.

The Lord’s fighting in the war at Armageddon will be a **powerful speaking**. It will tell Satan, Antichrist, the false prophet, and the entire universe that **God is sovereign** and that no one can rebel against Him. The God of order will sweep away all rebellion. In the present age of ignorance and darkness, **there needs to be a people who can speak the word of God**. The full-time trainees are blessed to spend the two years to learn the word of God. The best place for the young ones to learn the word of God is the full-time training. The best time and opportunity is just after college; the young ones can spend two years to be equipped and constituted with the word of God so that they can speak the word of God. If the thousands of saints participating in this semiannual training were to begin speaking the word of God every week, our country would be different. **There is a need for us to know the word of God, be filled with the word of God, and speak the word of God everywhere**—on college campuses, in work places, and in our communities—so that the word of God will have a way to go out. (*The Ministry of the Word*, vol. 30, No. 2, chapter 46)

Day 6

- Isa. 32:1* - Indeed a King will reign according to righteousness, and the rulers will rule according to justice.
- Jer. 23:5* - Indeed, days are coming, / Declares Jehovah, / When I will raise up to David a righteous Shoot; / And He will reign as King and act prudently / And will execute justice and righteousness in the land.
- Rev. 19:6* - And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunders, saying, Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

III. After Christ takes possession of the earth, **He will reign over the earth as the King in the kingdom**, ruling over the nations **with His overcoming believers**—20:4, 6; 2:26-27:

- A. As the coming King, He will be the **Head and the center** in the upcoming kingdom of God in the millennium.
- B. This will be the fulfillment of Isaiah 32:1, Jeremiah 23:5, and Zechariah 14:9, 17.
- C. Christ has redeemed the earth and all its peoples (Col. 1:20) to be the sphere and components of the kingdom, He has sold all to **buy the kingdom** (Matt. 13:44), and He has **rescued** the earth with all its peoples from the usurpation of Satan (Rev. 20:2-3).
- D. He will have the **full right** to be the King of the restored earth and the restored nations.
- E. In His upcoming reign **God's authority and glory will be fully manifested** (Matt. 6:13), and the whole earth with its peoples will be brought into righteousness, peace, joy, and the full blessing of God's creation (Isa. 32:1, 16-18; 35:1-2, 5-7).