

Rev 26-06-10b

We are looking at Revelation chapter 19, and in Revelation chapter 19, we have seen the first half of the chapter basically, and we're moving forward to the appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ on the white horse. Continuing from verse 11, I saw heaven opened and behold a white horse. He who sat on him was called faithful and true.

Faithfulness, truthfulness. I can't think of attributes higher and greater than these. John 14, six, Jesus said, I am the truth.

He told his disciples in that same context, the one who has my words and keeps them. That is the definition of loving the Lord Jesus. People say, oh, how I love Jesus, because he first loved me.

That's an old song that's been done in a gospel format and so on. But we can say we love Jesus to demonstrate the actual love of the Lord Jesus is to have his words and keep them. So how do we do that? Well, we're doing that tonight.

We are looking at these words, the words of this book, the blessing that is pronounced on the one who has them and keeps them. You will see this again in, we saw it in chapter one, we're gonna see it in chapter 22. But he in righteousness judges and makes war.

There is righteous judgment. There is righteous warfare. And you can't believe the pretzel logic of believers in this day, usually progressive Christianity, the deconstruct, reconstruct crowd, who have decided that it was wrongheaded and misguided when Old Testament writers and Old Testament prophets went to war, when David went to war, it was all wrong.

They misunderstood. Jesus had to come and straighten everybody out. Jesus never led anyone into war.

Jesus never judged anyone. Jesus never sentenced anyone. Yes, he does.

He didn't during his first advent because that is the suffering servant. There are two appearances of the Lord Jesus, and you can't focus on one and make that the be all and end all and ignore the rest of the revelation of God. Jesus is not only depicted in the person of Joseph in Egypt, by the way, Joseph never leads a war during his time in Egypt.

He is the benefactor. He is the one who ensures that the people prosper and do not starve. But Moses is also the prophet.

And he says, there will come another prophet, capital P like unto me, and you need to pay attention to him. And there is the Joseph role related to Israel and Egypt. There is the Moses role related to Israel and Egypt.

And Moses stands on the mountain and raises his arms so that the Amalekites can be defeated

by Joshua and the armies. And Aaron and Hur are on one side and the other. When Moses gets tired, they prop his arms up because it has to be Moses who ensures victory on the battlefield.

That's the way it works. So the anti-war pacifist mode of Christianity is a misunderstanding. His eyes are like a flame of fire.

You see this depicted, it reminds me of the sword that comes out of his mouth that's about to be referenced. And it's an ugly sort of grotesquery to see a human face with a metal blade sticking out of it at some length and say, well, there's a sword coming out of his mouth. If I were going to depict this artistically, I would have the sword suspended as having come from the mouth, not still stuck in his mouth with just the handle and the... It's an ugliness and it's a misunderstanding.

This is metaphor. If you want to depict the metaphor, depict it in an impressive way, not a grotesque way. So here's a sword that has clearly, he has spoken a word and that word as it hits the air has become a sword that is going forth to divide, to pierce, to lay open.

That is the purpose of the word. The word determines life and death, exposes what is hidden, lays bare what has been concealed and so on. So put the sword in the air, obviously having started life as a word and represented by a sword as it travels through the air.

In the same way, eyes like a flame of fire. There are current movie ads. I don't know what they're for.

I've just seen something on the screen where there's a human face and there are these eyes that are just like burning holes in the face and there's fire in the head or fire coming out or there's a orange line across and the eyes are just glowing and it's scary. You know, the Superman movies where Superman uses his laser gaze and there's flames shooting out of his eyes and you just think, you know, what kind of eyelashes have you got? Anyway, the eyes like a flame of fire. If I, again, were going to depict this artistically, they would be extremely bright and piercing eyes.

Eyes maybe with a reflection in a normal sense of a nearby fire. You would see a reflection, but not holes in the face with grotesque fire. That's not the intent.

The purpose is to show that this is a piercing, penetrating gaze that divides, that lays bare, that opens up, and fire is a symbol of judgment. It sees what it needs to see. The Lord Jesus is a perfect judge.

Don't you wish in a court of law, don't you wish in political campaigns, I was talking to a, that there were truths of this nature, that there was truth and righteousness and justice of this nature. Don't you wish that pertained? Talking to a piano client just in the last day or two, and there's a lot of elections coming up. And what are the candidates for? What are they against? What is their history? The local TV here, you see one individual, let's say his name is Colonel Sanders.

So actually his name reminds me of drumstick, which is why I'm using this nom de plume for him.

But let's say Colonel Sanders is running. So you see an ad, Colonel Sanders is the greatest thing since sliced bread.

Look at what he supported. He's kissed babies and walks on water, and he's a great guy. The very next 32nd spot is his opponent.

That Colonel Sanders is such a rascal. He's been burning chickens alive and kicking babies across the street. And he's horrific.

He's the worst guy in the world. You vote for him and the state is gonna fall apart, which is true. And they will cite facts, but you get the idea that these facts have been yanked out of context.

Well, so-and-so had a corporation that took money from the government. And well, was it COVID? And did they use this to pay employees? We're not told. It's putting the worst possible face on the past.

And so when they bring this stuff up, if you want to be fair, you've got to go do digging and try to verify sources and fact check and hope that somebody puts out a voter guide that is fair and balanced and does justice to the pros and cons of these people in a meaningful and helpful way. Do you not love the Lord Jesus? I love the nature and the character and the abilities of the Lord Jesus. He is true and righteous in his judgments.

He sees exactly what needs to be seen. He knows what needs to be known and his scales are perfect. He will render to each one according to his deeds.

You think about Romans chapter two, to those who by patient continuance in well-doing seek for glory, honor, and immortality, the Lord Jesus is going to grant eternal life. To others, read Romans chapter two. We've reviewed it many times.

It is not going to go so well, but you can trust the truth and the righteousness and justice of the Lord Jesus. You can open every single prayer. When the Lord Jesus prayed to his father, he said, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come and your will be done. Why? Because God's kingdom and God's will are so great. They're perfect.

They are admirable. They are refreshing water in the desert. Finally, a just and righteous kingdom.

Finally, perfect justice, perfect fairness, perfect provision, all sourced in love and a stated policy of benefit to those who will come and in humility, acknowledge the need for salvation and the need for God's grace and appreciate it when it comes. That's who God is looking for. Why is there suffering and hardship in the world? We need a sense of our shortfall.

We can't control it. We can't fix it. We can't fix ourselves.

We can't fix others. We can't fix the world. We are powerless.

God has the power and God is going to fix it. Do you want to let him do that or not? You don't have a sense of need. I was just talking to a teacher, another piano client, and she's moving from teaching fourth grade to teaching 11th and 12th grade English.

Wow. That's gonna be culture shock. But to get through to that generation with their prevailing attitudes and disinterests and short attention span and lack of foundation and preparation because of stupid decisions that have been made in the last five or six years, you know, during COVID and such and rendering it almost impossible for kids at that level who were in the formative years of their education when people said, shut down the schools, craziness.

So how do you get through? How do you get them to pay attention? You create a sense of need. Let me tell you where you're going to be a year or two from now, juniors and seniors. You're going to get a job where you have to be able to express yourself in writing.

Let's say you are, and then give them a concrete example. Or let's say you are in this. Let's say you want to be a content creator.

Let's say you want to be an influencer on social media. A lot of things that they want to do now. They used to, you know, generation ago, everybody wanted to be a website creator.

Now they want to be the subject of the website. They want to be the subject. I want to be there and have everybody give me likes and send me money and monetize my channel and all of that.

Whatever it is they're interested in. Find out what their goal is, where they think they're going to be. First day of class, where do you see yourself in five years? What do you want to be doing? And then craft a scenario where whatever it is you're going to be doing, you've got to know how to communicate clearly and well.

That's what this class is going to help you do. If you want to get to where you would like to be in five years, you have got to have communication skills. I am here to supply those.

Let's work on this project together. Create the sense of need and show them the solution to the need so that they will invest, so that they will go all in. Yeah, maybe I ought to learn how to write a sentence with something other than my two thumbs.

And, you know, the word predictor that fills in the next word for me, and I don't really have to think. Let me start with a blank screen and a copy of a word processor and create sentences and paragraphs. What is the structure? When I taught English to plebes at the Naval Academy as a senior, I got a book called Building Better Paragraphs.

All writing is based on sentences and sentences that are formed into paragraphs. That's the way the word of God is, so grateful. God made me a lousy engineer and gave me training in English and literature and composition, not just being taught, but teaching it.

You can't learn anything better than by teaching it. And who knew? I didn't know, but God did, that this was foundational and helpful in studying and interpreting the word of God because it is literature of the highest order. Greatly underestimated, in my opinion, by many interpreters.

They look low. They say, well, Dusty Herdsman wrote this. What could they have been thinking? Instead of saying, this is the most elevated, divinely-inspired communication in existence.

You need to look high. This is God-breathed, not goat herd-breathed. So don't sell it short.

Don't underestimate it. Don't say, well, the grammar is poor in Revelation, therefore it's done by a hack. It was so high, and John is talking so fast, and his Immanuensis is frantically taking notes in shorthand, trying to get it down in the moment.

Of course, it tells you that it actually happened. This was a vision like unto no other. It's the culminating, summary book of the Bible.

And what it says about itself pertains to the entire Bible, going all the way back to Genesis. If you have the words of this book and keep them, you are blessed. What are the words of this book? Let's continue.

The Lord Jesus, eyes are like a flame of fire, on his head, many crowns. How many crowns can you actually fit on a head? Obviously, this is metaphorical, just like I think the horse is metaphorical. Eyes burning with flames.

Nobody needs actual flaming eyes. You need eyes that are capable of perfect judgment, discerning the actual truth, and so on. So when you have this many crowns, crown him with many crowns, wonderful hymn, two different tunes, and so on.

Some of our hymns, when I was growing up, somebody would say, let's sing this hymn, and half the congregation would be singing one tune, and the other half would be singing the other. And, but what are these many crowns? A crown indicates being the king or head. Remember the kings that have no kingdom? The 10 horns on the seven heads of the beast? You don't have to have a kingdom to be a king, but you are the equivalent of a king in a non-kingdom domain.

You are the king of a company. You are the king of an industry. You are the king of a particular effort.

You are the big guy. You can think of people that are billionaires, and their names are in the news. Some of them have stepped up and participated in government for a short time.

Some of them also make cars and send things into space. Some of them have become the head of major search engine companies, or artificial intelligence companies, or social media companies. You know the names of these people.

They are kings. The Lord Jesus out distances and supersedes and is higher and greater than any of those individuals in any of those areas of endeavor. And I am here to tell you that in the millennial kingdom, whatever technology survives, whatever economic, social, and technical efforts and entities exist, the Lord Jesus will be the head of all of them.

He will be the president and CEO of all of them. Nobody is gonna go off and start tainting algorithms and tilting public opinion so long as the Lord Jesus is king. This is why people are going to have to simmer and chafe and grate and quietly grumble and mumble under their breath about how much they hate the Lord Jesus because they can't get together and form a resistance.

There's no way to do it. The Lord Jesus wears all the crowns. He is the head of everything, and he knows everything.

And these people are going to be quietly seething and boiling for a thousand years until Satan, who we will soon see gets thrown into the bottomless pit, is released. He is not thrown into the lake of fire when the beast and the false prophet are. They are done.

They are of no further use in God's plan of righteous and true judgment. And so they go into the lake of fire, and that is the end of their career. Satan, no.

Satan is chained in the bottomless pit for a thousand years. He must be released after a short time. You can flip over to chapter 20, verse two.

There is an angel coming down from heaven, has the key to the bottomless pit, great chain in his hand, lays hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, the devil and Satan, bound him for a thousand years. Why doesn't he go into the lake of fire? He is needed. God is going to use him for something.

Cast him into the bottomless pit. Shut him up and set a seal on him so that he should deceive the nations no more until the thousand years were finished. He deceives them no more until.

Doesn't say he deceives them no more forever. He deceives them no more until he is released to deceive them one more time. After these things, he must be released for a little while.

God's going to use him to bat cleanup. God's going to use him to accomplish a final operation. And even with a copy of the scriptures, he's not going to figure out that this effort is doomed.

He's not going to think, you know, I'll spoil God's plan and do something different. One thing about being in the grip of evil and deceiving others, those who are liars from the beginning, who are incorrigible deceivers, also deceive themselves. And Satan deceives himself.

And you can tell him, have you ever talked to somebody and you tell them an honest gospel truth? It is verifiable. It is incontrovertible. It is indefensible to any contradiction whatsoever.

You tell somebody a truth and you're like talking to the wall. Now, don't bother me with the facts my mind's made up. This is in the word of God.

This is not a part of the thunders that Satan's going to be locked up and then released. I could easily imagine that this would be a part of the seven thunders and maybe the seventh thunder and behold, I'm going to bind Satan. I'm going to put him away for a thousand years.

I'm going to let him go. And he's going to do a final thing for me, says God. But I'm not going to let him know, or maybe he won't do it.

God puts it right here in the book of Revelation. And Satan's going to do it anyway. He can't help himself.

There is a form of deceptive, delusional belief that is impervious to truth, impervious. Swing that hammer as hard as you can. Swing that hammer, smash it down.

You don't even make a dent. It's going to be bound for a thousand years. But after that, verse seven, we'll get there.

When the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison, go out to deceive the nations. One more time. It's his comeback tour.

He goes into retirement for a thousand years. He's back. One more performance.

We'll see that when we get to the next chapter. But the Lord Jesus has many crowns. And these individuals that have been kept by his authority, suppressed, neutralized, incapable of banding together and doing the Tower of Babel, the Lord Jesus is going to remove his hand.

He's going to unlock the bottomless pit and release Satan. And all of these people with a huge level of enthusiasm and relief and energy are going to flock to Satan. Finally, he's our savior.

And he is going to be full of the glory of this loyalty and adulation and elevation on the part of these people who can't stand righteousness, faithfulness, and truth. You would think nobody in their right mind would not like those things. We all know people who don't like those things.

I have a better way. I have a better plan. Don't tell me about God.

I hate anything that reminds me of God, and I forbid you to mention his name or anything that reminds me of it. There are people who know where that comes from. So, many crowns.

This many crowns is not a minor detail. This tells you how the millennial kingdom is going to operate. There is no realm in which the resistance is going to gain a foothold or traction or start

to, the rod of iron is going to come down and shatter every one of those things like a potter's vessel and that's why it is the peaceable kingdom.

Wouldn't it be great if anytime evil happened in our country, there was an agency of the government that would root it out and there is no fraud, there is no waste, there is no abuse, there is no lying on the media, there is no mischaracterizing, there are no teens taking charge of parts of cities and beating people up and smashing police cars and acting like they own the place with little to no consequence. There will be justice. You will not be able to avoid hearing the hallelujahs that are going to be pronounced for the Lord Jesus as the ruler of the earth for 10 centuries.

Finally, everybody in every age of history has seen injustice, cruelty, deception, manipulation, all of the horrific things that have happened man's humanity to man. The Lord Jesus is going to be the opposite. He is the ultimate perfected human being and when he rules, those who love righteousness and truth and justice will celebrate as never before.

The only thing that can compare to it is our own salvation and deliverance from those same evils. We are personally delivered, the world will be delivered from it for a thousand years. But just to show that will is truly free and just demonstrating, it's going to be a copy of what happened in heaven.

God had a similar arrangement in heaven with the angels before Satan and a third of them fell and of their own free will, they said, I don't like this. I want to do something different. I can be like the most high, I can run an operation apart from God and it'll be better.

Every time it's been tried, it fails. Satan's been trying on and on through history, it's never worked. Well, he's going to get a final shot, but it isn't to set up an alternative.

He won't rebuild Babylon. All he will do is out and make visible all of those who have been simmering and seething and quietly in their minds rebelling. They're going to come and assemble.

They're going to out themselves. They're going to come out and surround the camp of the saints that's also in Revelation 20. We might as well just talk about it.

20 verse seven, when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison. He will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth. That just means everybody in every nation, there are going to be these who are, you know, they honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

As it says, he will gather them together to battle whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, 100% participation. This is their big chance.

We can finally get rid of this odious truth, justice, peace, love, this Jesus who thinks he runs the world, which of course he does, but they're all in. Every single person is going to join this throng. The more of us there is, the better it will be.

All of you come out and vote, right? And they don't get to set up another experiment. They don't rebuild a Babylon in the plain of Shinar. What happens? Fire comes down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

That's it. You had your chance. If living in a fallen sinful world didn't convince you, if coming back and living in an unfallen and perfect government world doesn't convince you, there is no hope for you.

Fire comes down and devours them. This is synonymous with the lake of fire. Fire devours.

It doesn't torment. They don't roll around writhing in torture and pain. They're devoured.

When you're devoured, you're gone. The devil who deceived them is cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and false prophet. Notice *R* is in italics.

They were thrown in at the beginning of the millennium. Satan is thrown into the end. It doesn't say they are there.

It just says, remember that lake of fire I just mentioned? We sort of assume the lake of fire, everybody knows about it. It's an innovation in the book of Revelation. And really the first time it's mentioned is when the beast and false prophet are thrown into it.

So this second mention of the lake of fire, Satan is thrown into the lake of fire. That one I mentioned earlier when I was talking about the beast and the false prophet. It doesn't mean they're there, that they're alive and conscious.

We'll talk about this more when we get there. Then there's the great white throne and verse 14 and 15, death and Hades are cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Anyone not found written in the book of life cast into the lake of fire. Everything that goes into the lake of fire gets immolated. It is no more.

And part of our rationale for that is gonna be refer back to the smoke that ascends forever and ever that we just saw with Babylon. So 19 to 12, many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows except himself.

Do you remember that that is one of the overcomer rewards? We don't have time to go back and review that. Go back and look at your overcomer rewards. Hopefully you've got a list of them in your notes.

If not, go back and make one. That's what we're shooting for. What those represent.

They are also metaphors. It's not just, here you go, here's a white rock. It means something.

It always reminds me, I've mentioned this many times in the past, but you look at someone in a military uniform. Many times you see high ranking officers on TV and you notice on their left breast, there are ribbons that represent various things. If you're in the military and you're paying attention, you can recognize a lot of those.

Oh, that's national defense. Oh, that's overseas deployment. Oh, that's meritorious unit citation.

Oh, that's the Navy commendation medal. There's the Army commendation medal. In a rare quirk of fate, there are a few of us that have both an Army and a Navy commendation.

It's kind of freaky. You have to have been in weird places to do that. And then there are those that go up higher.

Oh, he's got a bronze star. He's got a silver star. In rare cases, there's the medal of honor, that light blue with the stars.

And usually you'd wear that thing around your neck. But you say, those are bits of ribbon that for a buck 50, you could make one of those. It isn't the thing itself.

It's what it represents. It is granted by a command or it is authorized by Congress or by the highest traditions of a particular Naval service or Army service or Coast Guard or Merchant Marine, whatever it may be. And it means something.

A shooting badge is a little piece of pot metal. It represents something. The overcomer rewards represent something.

You see this in the movies all the time, especially those that are of the fantasy realm or science fiction or futuristic or whatever. We just watched one where some people are off to a far off place and it's gonna take 120 years to get there. And there's a malfunction and somebody wakes up and there's still 90 years to go.

And, oh no, I'm gonna grow old and die before the ship arrives. I was supposed to be in stasis and hibernation where everybody else is, including the crew. So I'm wandering around here, what am I gonna do? And well, he can't get into certain spaces to try to figure out what's going on because he doesn't have access.

He's a low level passenger. He can't even get a decent breakfast out of the machine because he's not a gold class passenger. He's the lowest rung of the ladder.

He's like in steerage. And so he's gotta eat cornflakes. Well, he wakes up this other gal and she

goes to the thing, she's gold class and she gets eggs and toast and muffins and all the rest of it.

And she has to start getting him breakfast because his access is so minimal. Think about the overcomer rewards in terms of access and opportunities. That white stone is gonna unlock things.

That new name is going to be registered in places that others will not be allowed to go because if they went, they'd mess it up. They don't have capacity. It isn't just, it's not arbitrary.

It's not, well, I'm gonna make you feel like a second class citizen. You're a second class citizen because you don't have the skills. You don't have the self-discipline.

You don't have the kind of soul that can withstand what you're going to have access to, what you will see and hear and be able to do at this level. I don't give a seven-year-old the keys to my car. Why? Not that I think less of the seven-year-old, just doesn't have the capacity.

He will hurt himself and others if he tries to drive that thing, right? Think of the overcomer blessings in terms of our preparation. Making ourselves ready, the wife of the lamb. Can you imagine the access that the bride of the king, the queen has in spiritual realms? I wanna be in that group and I wanna be qualified.

I don't wanna go in there and goof and break things and hurt myself and others. I've got to be prepared. I've got to know the word of God.

When you think about, well, you know, I've got a job, I've got laundry, I've got a car, I mean, a lawn. It's all so mundane. Not when it comes to spiritual things, not when it comes to Bible class, learning what is in the word of God, internalizing it, thinking about it, praying it back to the father, asking for wisdom, asking for insight, asking for understanding, asking for knowledge of how to apply these things and learn them and make them a part of our soul.

You gotta be ready. Big things are coming. Do you want access to the upper decks of the ship? Do you wanna be able to look through the big eyes and see the shoreline? Do you wanna to, you know, have access to the amenities and the opportunities to be a part of wonderful things to come? The hoi polloi, you know, look at kids we're raising in our country.

They've got no skills. They've got no self-discipline. I wouldn't let them into a fine arts museum without everything being encased in bulletproof glass.

They'll be writing their names on famous paintings and picking up rare objects from the Ming dynasty and breaking them for fun because they're not qualified. They don't have what it takes internally to be allowed access to fine things. Might have wonderful weapons, and if you're a weapons enthusiast, look at the beauty, look at the fine engineering and the tolerances and how wonderfully this thing works and how accurately it puts, you know, ammunition downrange.

You don't wanna hand that to somebody that's gonna hit spray and, you know, cause damage. We're going to the heavenly realms. It's a fact.

We are going into the eternal future. It is a fact. Do you wanna be kept in the safety of the pens outside where the sheeple are going to dwell, or do you want to have a pass? And do you want to not embarrass yourself when you have that pass? You know how to dress.

Would you like to be invited to a very fine state dinner where the president and the king of England and other great potentates and luminaries are? The most famous people in the world are there. But when you sit down, there's all of these forks and all of these spoons and all of these glasses and stuff is going on. I don't know what to do.

You know, you're drinking out of the finger bowl and you're making a fool of yourself because you're not qualified to be there. You're set next to people with whom you ought to be able to converse, but you've got no fund of conversation because you don't really know anything about them. Well, I know that guy's the king, but he's asking me questions.

Well, what do you think of this? I don't know anything about that. I am not qualified to be here. I am a shame and an embarrassment.

Somebody get me out of here. I am not ready for this. Shame on you.

Shame on us. The Lord Jesus gave us this book in particular and the other 65 books of the Bible to get ready. So the wife of the lamb needs to make herself ready.

Those who are going to attend the banquet have made themselves ready and they are invited because they're not gonna be an embarrassment. They're not gonna have to show up and say, you know, where's your garment? Well, I thought this was good enough. Did you know the king's got a whole closet full of garments? You were supposed to get one of those.

Did you really think your stuff was good enough? And not what the king provides? And he's escorted out, cut in two, apportioned his lot with the hypocrites for the arrogance of thinking he's qualified and getting the bums rushed because he's really not. That can't be us. Heaven forbid with the opportunities that we have to learn and to grow in grace and knowledge.

We have had this book explained to us. It's not difficult. We know what we need to do.

So let's do it. Let's be ready. When the Lord Jesus appears, remember when Paul says, you know, that you be not ashamed at his coming? Most Christians, most believers of this age are going to be ashamed at his coming.

It is going to be like showing up at a fancy dress occasion and it's like a bad dream. You look down and you're dressed in your worst jeans and a torn t-shirt and you need a bath and your hair is greasy. And you look like you got run over by a street sweeper.

And here's everyone else looking like, you know, how did this person get in? It doesn't need to be us. And I don't need to be with all the rest of the people who do look that way. So notice he is clothed with a robe dipped in blood and his name is called the word of God.

The blood represents what? Is it his own blood? Is it the blood of others? Yes. There is judgment associated with the Lord Jesus. He has born judgment for those who are now cleansed and redeemed and atoned for.

And he has judged others who aren't. The blood represents all of those. That's why it isn't specified.

It doesn't say his blood. It doesn't say the blood of others. The guy with the robe dipped in blood that comes from Basra, representation of the Lord Jesus, that is enemy blood, not his own.

Here, it is representative of all of that judgment. His name is called the word of God. No doubt who this is.

And the same John identifies him in the gospel of John chapter one, verse one. The word was God. He is the word of God.

But notice the armies of heaven. This is us. If you don't like military service, you won't be a part of the wife of the lamb in my understanding.

Now you're gonna be in the darkness outside roasting weenies over the burning inheritance that you could have had. The armies of heaven are clothed in fine linen, white and clean, following him on white horses, joining him in power and opportunity and movement. This needs to be us.

We want to be in this group. We can be in this group. There's nothing stopping us from being in this group.

We know how to be in this group. We know how to be prepared. You know this.

We've seen it over and over again, not just in this study, but in almost every other. We know what it takes. Do we care? Are we apathetic and indifferent? Are we too busy? Have we got something better going on than being in this group and heading into the eternal future where for endless sequences of events in the future what we do now determines where we will be.

I don't see movement in the eternal future. Maybe the healing leaves will help people to a certain extent. I want to hit the ground running.

I want to be in this group and I want to stay in this group and I want to serve in this group. I want to express my gratitude to the Lord Jesus by being qualified to be near him. And he can say, Sam, could you do this for me? Fill in your name here.

Would you take care of this? And we can say, yes, master, savior, and Lord. And we know how to do it. We're able to do it.

I've got this. You can count on me. As they say in the British Repair Shop show, leave it with me.

When you come back, this is going to be done and done beautifully. If you haven't seen the Repair Shop, you ought to at least pull up an episode or two. It's great.

These people are the best in the world at taking broken things and making them serviceable in some cases as good as the day they were made. And somebody brings in this horrific pile of parts and the guy looks at them because he's been doing this for decades and he says, leave it with me. When that person comes back, it's beautiful.

Don't you want to be a servant of the Lord Jesus and in the future projects and unimaginable things that come up, here's a portion of it. And the Lord Jesus can turn to you and call your name and say, would you do this for me? He does that in this life. Would you take care of this person for me? Would you be a companion or a spouse to this person for me? Would you be a parent to this child? Will you be a child for this parent or these parents? Would you pastor this church? Would you provide encouragement or prayer or music or whatever it might be in some area? And we say, with pleasure, thank you for the opportunity.

People thank me for my military service and I say, it was my privilege. I'm thanking you for paying your taxes so that we have a military that I could serve in and have a nation that is worth defending and so on. Proud to serve, privileged to serve, that can be us.

But you can't get distracted by the eyewash of momentary human circumstances. Think big, think long-term, think eternity. I want to be the wife of the Lamb.

I want to be in the armies of heaven. I want to be of service now and in the ages to come and I know exactly how to do it. Gotta start by making sure my clothes are clean.

I need to wash in the blood of the Lamb, confession of sin, identify it, acknowledge it, depart from it. And I need to get busy laying hold of righteousness by faith, it's all you gotta do. It's spelled out, it's not hard.

We have the Holy Spirit, we have the word of God. That's the power. Well, I think you've heard about this before.

We have certainly seen it over and over again in this book. That is the purpose of this book. Keep the words of this book, you are blessed.

And when it says blessed, everything we've just talked about is a part of that blessing. Who doesn't want to do this? I don't understand why all of Christianity is not scrambling to enter into these opportunities. It's like the best kept secret.

It's like buying into a gold mine at the ground floor. Why wouldn't you do that? It doesn't make sense to do anything else. Well, we will continue and we are going to see what it means for the Lord Jesus to rule.

And then we're gonna see what this angel standing in the sun means next time. That'll be this coming Sunday. We'll close here in a word of prayer.

Father, thank you for the grace that offers us these wonderful opportunities in our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He understood what he was making possible and out of love for us, he went to the cross and bore a judgment that should rightfully have come upon all of us. And in so doing, he accomplished your will.

He perfected salvation and made it available to us. He showed us how it works with the Holy Spirit and with your word. And we pray that we can keep this clearly in mind in the hours and days ahead.

May the Holy Spirit bring it to our conscious mind, our conscious thoughts, so that we can view each day not as simply something to get through like any godless unbeliever could do, but to remember our relationship with you, the opportunity to claim all of the rights and privileges of being your children in Christ. We ask it in Jesus' name, amen.