



THE PROCLAIMER

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THE CAPTAIN OF OUR SALVATION

Rev. 19:11-16

¹¹Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse! Its rider is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.

¹²His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems; and he has a name inscribed that no one knows but himself. ¹³He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies of heaven, wearing fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron; he will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

¹⁶On his robe and on his thigh he has a name inscribed, "King of kings and Lord of lords."

As we read the above passage, a window into heaven is opened. The revelation depicts a scenario which will take place at the end of human history as we now know it. A white horse, the ancient symbol of conquest appears. In ancient time, the victorious Roman generals would parade into the city riding a white horse.



Recently I read a testimony shared by a priest in a mission magazine . He told of the experience of some villagers in his parish in the Mayan town of Santiago Chimatenango. The Guatemalan army was waging a bitter war against guerrilla insurgency and had forced the men of the town to serve in civil patrols as a buffer between themselves and the guerillas.

One night the civil patrol encountered a powerfully built man mounted on a white horse. He told them to return to their homes, but the men were afraid they would be killed if they did not complete their duty. However the stranger escorted the men back to town and then amazingly rode his steed into the church and disappeared.

When the lieutenant in charge heard of it, he was furious and the next night personally led the patrol. They met the mounted man near the cemetery. The



Contents

The Captain of Our Salvation
page 1

Continue--Teaching
page 2

Outreach & Mission
page 3

Itinerary
Page 4

officer tried to shoot him but the horse reared and knocked the officer down. The horseman warned that if anyone in town was harmed, he would punish all the soldiers. The next day the army left. The villagers believed the man on the white horse was the patron saint of their town, St. James.

In our scripture passage the identity of the man on the white horse is sure. In this brief passage he is called the “Faithful and True”, the “Word of God”, the “King of Kings and Lord of Lords, he even has a name no one else knows. This warrior king is elsewhere identified as a suffering servant and the writer of Hebrews speaks of Him thus: “*For it was fitting for Him, for whom all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the Captain of their Salvation perfect through sufferings.*”

This “Captain of Salvation” has perfectly proven his faithfulness and truth by enduring horrid pain, taking upon his perfect being the burden of the world’s sin, experiencing a wretched death, and then triumphing over sin, death, and Satan. He came to show men the way of righteousness. Some have believed. To this day, many despise Him.

As our passage describes, he will return accompanied by a vast army of angels as well as all of those who have enlisted in His service throughout the ages---those who like Him---have been faithful and true in good times and bad. There will be no mistaking who He is and the authority he wields. Although many will resist Him and openly despise His ways right up to this very point in history, this one event will bring a perfectly just closure to the present age. The scene of this present passage paints a picture of Jesus Christ which is seldom imagined.

The passage simply depicts for us what he will look like. Whether taken literally or symbolically, the portrait is awesome.

He is “Faithful and True”--all that He has ever promised will be done-----none will escape a perfect judgment.

His eyes will be like fire---a piercing, penetrating power. He sees everywhere, even in dark places and behind closed doors. His eyes search the inner recesses of the heart, nothing escapes His gaze.

He wears many crowns, there is no area of life that he does not sovereignty rule. He conquers all earthly kingdoms.

He has a name which no man knows. Why? Because this is Almighty God, the creator of the universe. Names signify character and attributes in the scripture, but the nature of God is so far beyond human comprehension that we simply cannot imagine it. In time we will know as we are known.

He is called the “Word of God” and his robe is sprinkled with blood. This is the blood of his enemies, slain by the Word which He speaks. “I have trodden the winepress alone: and of the people there was none with me, for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment”(Is. 63:3).

And who are these saints who march in His company, those dressed in fine linen, white and pure, and also riding white horses? (The Greek word here literally means a “*glittering linen*”).

Scripture uses various Hebrew and Greek words to define three different kinds of linen. The first is an ordinary kind, used to make the garments of humility, such as when the high priest scattered the ashes (depicting repentance from sin).

The second is a fine twisted linen--such was used for the priestly vestments of glory and beauty, used when entering the Holy Place (the Lord seeks a Holy people).

The third and choicest kind was a linen with a glittering sheen, a bright and dazzling appearance. Such were the garments of the Levite's at the dedication of the temple--the glory of God came down, the priests could not stand, and the presence of the Lord filled the house (depicting a people who enter the fullness of glory).

It is this third kind of linen which is mentioned in our scripture passage---*a glittering linen*---a people actually clothed in glory--fully redeemed.

Surely it is the desire of every one who counts themselves a disciple of Jesus to be found in this great army on the final day. How does one attain to this glorious raiment?

Certainly the answer to that question has to do with one's willingness to wear the first two kinds of linen. Are we willing to put on the humble garment of humility, admitting our need, confessing our sin, exercising true repentance?

Are we willing to do whatever necessary to attain holiness? Is living a crucified life, identifying with a

suffering savior, a life that we embrace? If so, we can rejoice even now that the garments of glory will be our covering as we march in the company of the "*Captain of our Salvation*".

Outreach Teams are Being Readied for 2003 Return to Africa and Eastern Europe



Left: In an ancient church in the Czech Republic, team members pray for and comfort a people who spent decades under oppression and darkness. The final night of our crusade was the eve of Pentecost and the Holy Spirit came in power.



Above and Below: --Thousands respond in African rallies. Many still await their moment of conversion. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.



We will again be working closely with Renewal Ministries in 2003. Tom will be leading teams to the Czech Republic and Slovakia in May, Tanzania in July, Slovakia in August, Slovakia and Czech Republic in October.

Our pilgrimage/retreat to Italy in April promises to be a time of refreshment and blessing. We still have room for four more people if you know someone interested.

WILL YOU HELP US TO CONTINUE?

Yes Tom and Pam, add me to your Co-Missionary supporters. Keep me informed--send me some envelopes. I'll do my best as God enables me to pray for your ministry and support your ministry on a monthly basis.

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Itinerary

Each Monday Evening--7:00 PM--Joyful Family Prayer G.--Sacred Heart--Jacksonville, FL (all are welcome)
Each Wednesday Evening--7:00 PM--Joyful Family Prayer G.--St. Augustine FL--Nombre de Dios House of Prayer (all are welcome)
Feb.--March 2----Jacksonville, Fl---Catholic Conference, San Jose Parish
March 7--Ann Arbor, MI--Renewal Ministries Gathering
March 8-13--Albuquerque, NM--St. Bernadette's, Parish Mission
March 14, Albuquerque, NM--St. Theresa P.G.
March 15, Las Vegas, NM---Day of Renewal, Highlands Univ., Student Union
March 16, Albuquerque, NM---P.G---Peggy Valdez Home
March 17, Pojoaque, NM---Parish P.G.
March 18, Santa Fe, NM---Cathedral
March 19, Grants, NM---St. Theresa
March 22-26, McComb, Ms.---St. Alphonsus Parish Mission
March 29-April 2, Montrose, PA--Holy Name of Mary, Parish Mission
April 10-22--Italy Sites & Saints Retreat---Florence, Assisi, Rome
May 18-24--Ostrava, Czech Republic, Mission
May 25-27--Bratislava, Slovakia---Mission
May 29-30--Podolinec, Slovakia---Evangelism School
July 6-19---Tanzania, Dar es Salaam and Tanga, Evangelism Schools and Rallies.
August 15-28---Kosice, Slovakia--Priest's Retreat, Men's Retreat
October 6-12--Presov, Slovakia---Discipleship School and Rally
Oct. 13-19---Czech Republic---Mission

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