

## ***Session 6: Behold, A White Horse!***

### ***Questions to begin***

- From films you've seen or books you've read, what's your favourite showdown (fictional or real-life) between good and evil? What made it satisfying? Do you always like to see "the goodies" win?
- Who is your favourite Christian martyr? Why?

### **The Reading: Rev 19:11 – 20:10**

#### **The Rider on the White Horse**

11 Then 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. <sup>12</sup>His 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. <sup>13</sup>He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup>And the armies of heaven, wearing fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. <sup>15</sup>From 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. <sup>16</sup>On his robe and on his thigh he has a name inscribed, 'King of kings and Lord of lords'.

#### **The Beast and Its Armies Defeated**

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly in mid-heaven, 'Come, gather for the great supper of God, <sup>18</sup>to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of the mighty, the flesh of horses and their riders—flesh of all, both free and slave, both small and great.' <sup>19</sup>Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against the rider on the horse and against his army. <sup>20</sup>And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed in its presence the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulphur. <sup>21</sup>And the rest were killed by the sword of the rider on the horse, the sword that came from his mouth; and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

## The Thousand Years

20 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. <sup>2</sup>He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, <sup>3</sup>and threw him into the pit, and locked and sealed it over him, so that he would deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be let out for a little while.

4 Then I saw thrones, and those seated on them were given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony to Jesus and for the word of God. They had not worshipped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup>(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup>Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. Over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

## Satan's Doom

7 When the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup>and will come out to deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, in order to gather them for battle; they are as numerous as the sands of the sea. <sup>9</sup>They marched up over the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from heaven and consumed them. <sup>10</sup>And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

*After reading the text, you may wish to consider the following:*

- The main image of Jesus in Revelation is the Lamb. What does the imagery of 19:11-21 add to the total picture of Jesus? How can the two images of Jesus be combined?
- What is the similarity between those who ride with Jesus in 19:14 and those pictured in 6:11 and 7:9? What does this similarity suggest about the identity of the cavalry in 19:14?

- In 19:11 John indicates that 19:11-21 symbolises a judgement (“*he judges*”). Compare this vision to other visions of God’s judgement in 6:12-17 and 20:11-15. What different aspects of God’s judgement does each vision emphasise?
- In 20:3 John says the dragon was prevented from deceiving. What does 20:8 tell us about the purpose of the dragon’s deception? John doesn’t explicitly state the lie that the dragon was promoting. Judging from 20:8, what would you say it was? (There is no one correct answer!).

**After session 6, you may wish to consider the following**

### *Questions for Application*

- What makes it difficult to stand up against injustice or wrongdoing, either social or individual, while loving the people involved? How can we overcome the difficulties?
- What message of hope does 19:11-21 convey? What difference can this message make in your life?
- What do the titles of Jesus in 19:11, 13 and 16 mean for your relationship with him?
- Think of a situation in which God’s Word had an effect on you. What did you learn?
- In what way is God inviting you to respond to his mercy and love at this point in your life?
- Does it come as a surprise to think that you are already living during the thousand-year reign of Christ? What signs of his reign do you see? How should this perspective affect the way you live today?

### *Suggestions for Prayer*

Think of one area of life where you feel God is calling you to stand firm or make a change. What makes it difficult for you to respond?

Bring this before the Lord in prayer and ask for His help.