



SERIES: October “Back to the Future”

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Thursday, 10/07/2021

Scripture: Revelation 19:11-13

TITLE: The Warrior Messiah

What images come to mind when I say the name of Jesus? Is it the guy from *The Chosen* carrying a leather backpack healing the sick? Is it of Jesus playing with the children? Is it Jesus calming the storm while in the boat? Is it the suffering servant being flogged? Is it the resurrected Jesus standing before Thomas? There are many images that can come to mind when we discuss Jesus.

But there is one image of Jesus that is often left out, and it regards His future return.

What is this image? Turn with me to Revelation 19:11-13 (CSB) to see this image of Christ.

“Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True, and with justice, he judges and makes war. His eyes were like a fiery flame, and many crowns were on his head. He had a name written that no one knows except himself. He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God.”

This is the moment we’ve all been waiting for. Just like in Revelation 4:1, heaven opened. This time not to let John in but to let Jesus out. Finally, we get to see Jesus, the sovereign Lord, come. He spoke of this moment in Matthew 24:29-31.

John looks up here in Revelation 19 and sees Jesus. But he’s not floating playing the harp and throwing out flower necklaces. It says a rider comes out on a white horse. This rider’s name is Faithful and True. This rider is, of course, Jesus Christ.

Notice that Jesus isn’t the humble servant riding on the donkey on the way to his death. Now he is a warrior seated on a white horse. A white horse was ridden by victorious Roman generals in their triumphal processions through the streets of Rome. His title is appropriate. Jesus Christ is faithful and true to His promises of mercy, grace, and salvation. He is also faithful to his promises of justice and wrath.

We like the images of Jesus healing the sick, playing with the kids, calming the storms, and for our benefit, dying on the cross. But the warrior Jesus delivering justice tends to be hidden. There is coming a day where we will see Him fully. He is coming to judge and make war. His robe will be dipped in blood. This is not His blood. It’s the blood of the condemned. This is not the blood of redemption but of judgment.

A frightening but long-expected image of our Savior.

So here’s my challenge for you today:

Share the good news with someone. Yes, God sent Jesus because He loved the world. And Jesus offers salvation freely. But this is a limited-time offer. There is a day coming where Jesus will return on that white horse prepared to deliver judgment. You may be ready but are your friends, family, and coworkers?

Jesus' return is imminent. So share that good news today!