

EXPERIENCING, ENJOYING, AND EXPRESSING CHRIST (4)

Message Ten Christ—the Establiher of the Kingdom and the Word of God—King of Kings and Lord of Lords

JL *Hymns*: 941

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.
- Rev 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet, who in his presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone.
- Rev 19:21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeds out of the mouth of Him who sits on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

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

- 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.
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- 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.
- 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.
 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
- 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:
 Rev 20 be omitted.
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).
 Matt 13:43 Then the righteous will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.
 Matt 13:41 The Son of Man will send His angels, and they will collect out of His kingdom all the stumbling blocks and those who practice lawlessness,
 2. The kingdom of the Messiah, or the Messianic kingdom, is another name for the lower section of the millennium.
- F. Revelation 20:4-6 reveals that Christ as the Establisher of the kingdom will reign with the overcoming saints:
- 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.
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.
 Dan 7:10 A stream of fire issued forth / And came out from before Him. / Thousands of thousands ministered to Him, / And ten thousands of

- ten thousands stood before Him. / The court of judgment sat, / And the books were opened.
- Dan 7:18 But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, indeed, forever and ever.
- Dan 7:22 Until the Ancient of Days came; and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High; and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.
- 2) Verse 4 in Revelation 20 indicates that the overcomers have received and are enjoying the kingdom.
- 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.
- G. The overcomers become qualified to reign with Christ by the humanity of Jesus being worked into them—2:26.
- Rev 2:26 And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;
- 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.
- Phil 3:11 If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.
- 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).
- Rev 2:26 And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;
- Rev 2:27 And he will shepherd them with an iron rod, as vessels of pottery are broken in pieces, as I also have received from My Father;
- Rev 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

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

- 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.
- Rev 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet, who in his presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who

worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone.

Rev 19:21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeds out of the mouth of Him who sits on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

- 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:

Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

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.

- 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 Thes 2:3 Let no one deceive you in any way, because it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of perdition,

2 Thes 2:7 For it is the mystery of lawlessness that is now operating, but only until the one now restraining goes out of the way.

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),

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.

- 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:

Rev 19 be omitted.

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.

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:

- 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 20:6 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 2:26 And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;
- Rev 2:27 And he will shepherd them with an iron rod, as vessels of pottery are broken in pieces, as I also have received from My Father;
- 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.

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.

Zech 14:9 And Jehovah will be King over all the earth; and in that day Jehovah will be the one God and His name the one name.

Zech 14:17 And whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, Jehovah of hosts, upon them there will be no rain.
 - 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).

Col 1:20 And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross-through Him, whether the things on the earth or the things in the heavens.

Matt 13:44 The kingdom of the heavens is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid, and in his joy goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field.

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.
 - 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).

- Matt 6:13 And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
- Isa 32:1 Indeed a King will reign according to righteousness, / And the rulers will rule according to justice.
- Isa 32:16 Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, / And righteousness will remain in the fruitful field;
- Isa 32:17 And the work of righteousness will be peace, / And the result of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.
- Isa 32:18 And my people will live in a peaceful habitation / And in secure dwellings and carefree resting places.
- Isa 35:1 The wilderness and the desert will be glad; / And the desert will exult and blossom / Like the rose.
- Isa 35:2 It will blossom and blossom, / And even exult with exultation and a ringing shout. / The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, / The splendor of Carmel and Sharon; / They will see the glory of Jehovah, / The splendor of our God.
- Isa 35:5 Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, / And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped;
- Isa 35:6 Then the lame will leap like a hart, / And the tongue of the dumb will give a ringing shout; / For water will break forth in the wilderness, / And streams in the desert.
- Isa 35:7 And the desert mirage will become a pool, / And the thirsty ground, springs of water; / In the habitation of jackals, their resting place, / There will be grass with reeds and rushes.