

all things new

# REVELATION

**OPENING UP**

Has anyone ever stood up for you in the face of a bully or when you couldn't speak on your own behalf? How did it feel to have someone else fighting for you? Share your experiences.

**TEXT****The Return of the King | Revelation 19:11-21**

<sup>11</sup> I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. <sup>13</sup> He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. <sup>14</sup> The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup> Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. <sup>16</sup> On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

**KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**

<sup>17</sup> And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, <sup>18</sup> so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small."

<sup>19</sup> Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. <sup>20</sup> But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. <sup>21</sup> The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

**MESSAGE OUTLINE**

**Big Idea:** Jesus will defeat God's enemies.

1. See the victorious king. (vv. 11-16)
2. See the victorious battle. (vv. 17-21)

## DISCUSSION

- This passage (vv. 11-16) gives us a picture of Jesus as the returning king. When you close your eyes to think of or pray to Jesus, how does your typical image of him differ from what we read in this passage? How could allowing this passage to influence your mental image enhance the way you relate to Jesus?
- Verse 15 shows us that Jesus will ultimately defeat and rule over the nations. What impact does Jesus' future victory have on the current battles we fight and enemies we face in this world? Share a specific situation with your group.
- Read Colossians 2:14-15 aloud as a group. There is an already/not yet paradox at play in our salvation—the future victory of Christ is so sure that Scripture talks about it in the past tense, but we haven't experienced it in our reality yet. What does the "already" of our salvation mean to you? How can knowing the sure outcome of history impact you as you struggle with sin and its effects today?
- In verse 14, we see the armies of heaven wearing white linen. The armies are all the redeemed believers in Jesus, and they are certainly not dressed for battle! What is their role in the battle? How does this knowledge bring you freedom?
- Take turns completing this statement: "Because Jesus is coming back and will completely defeat God's enemies, I now can \_\_\_\_\_." His future victory changes our present reality!

## LIFE CHALLENGE



When we think about the future victory of Jesus, we know we will be on the winning side when we belong to him. But what about your friends and family? Which side of the battle will they be on?

How can this picture of Jesus' ultimate victory fuel our desire to be about God's mission of turning people's hearts back to him? Share one step you can take this week to help someone turn to Jesus in faith.

## CLOSING PRAYER



Jesus, we praise you for your guaranteed victory over all of God's enemies. It hasn't happened yet, but we believe in the SURE promise that you will win the final battle. Help that reality to change the way we think during the day, the way we rely on your strength to fight sin in our lives, the way we are moved with compassion to tell others about life in Jesus, and the way that we live with hope through our struggles. Amen.