

Rev. 19:9: *'Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' "And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God.'"*

The Greek word which the angel uses, here, for: 'true sayings of God,' is logos. It means, generally, 'word' but, more specifically, it means doctrine, teaching, prophecy and, most specifically, it means, the Lord Jesus Christ as the True Word of God, the personal wisdom and power in union with God, the minister in creation and government of the Universe, the cause of all the World's life both physical, spiritual and ethical which, for the procurement of man's salvation, put on human nature in the person of Jesus Christ, God Almighty.

In other words, these Words, the Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ as given to John for delivery to His Body and Bride, the True Church... every Word of Revelation is the Word of God which we are commanded to know, understand and believe, as well as teach... Revelation is not only as important as all the rest of the Bible, it is, in some ways, God's most crucial Word to the Church; this is the last Word Jesus Christ gave to His Church; this is the Word which reiterates His command that we watch and wait diligently for His return, to collect His Bride, which is exactly why Satan has blinded the eyes and hearts of even Christians as to the significance and importance of The Revelation. Many, if not most pastors and teachers treat The Revelation as not only less important than other Scripture but, rather, even as completely unimportant and worthless to Believers; they actually despise the words of The Revelation and that is, surely, the hallmark of apostasy: refusing to believe what God has said... refusing to believe and refusing to teach God's last Word to the Bride and Body of Jesus Christ.

Imagine: you've just become engaged to the love of your life; your betrothed writes you a final letter before he/she travels to a far land; what do you do with that letter? Do you cherish it? Do you read it over and over, imagining your beloved right there... do you read and re-read it every day... or do you despise it, do you refuse to read it, do you treat it as common, uninteresting and even worthless... are you embarrassed by it, afraid of what others will think and say if you show your love for it and the one who wrote it to/for you?

'These are the true sayings of God!' to you, His beloved.

Verse 10: *'And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God!"' ...*

This is odd... why would John fall at the feet of this angel in worship? He's seen many angels to this point and we would expect him to know the difference between an angel or God seated upon His throne and the Lord Jesus Christ Whom he saw, clearly, at the beginning of this great prophecy.

Notice that John does so immediately upon hearing that, *"These are the true sayings of God."*

Is that what causes him to mistake this angel for the Lord Jesus Christ? Another answer might be that even though this is *'only'* one of God's angels, it very well could be that angels are, by comparison with humans, still so far beyond our comprehension that we would, like John, be unable to contain ourselves in their presence which seems to be the human response when we've seen them other times in Scripture.

As an example of a single angel's power and might, we look to the Old Testament:

'And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.' 2 Kings 19:35

One angel killed 185,000 men and, undoubtedly, could have killed far, far more had God not stayed his hand. See the response of the angel to John's worship; he immediately stops John from doing so... how different from fallen angels and, especially, Satan who, on the other hand, not only welcomes human worship, he demands it.

'... and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus...' And what is *'the testimony of Jesus?'*

The remainder of this verse says: '*... worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*'

The 'testimony of Jesus...' what Jesus says... everything Jesus says, all that He testifies to... it's all '*the spirit of prophecy.*'

All those, today, who despise 'The Revelation,' those who refuse to read it, to study it, to teach it... they are refusing God's 'spirit of prophecy.' They are refusing the Lord Jesus Christ.

God's Word to man is all founded upon Prophecy! Why? Because Prophecy is how God has chosen to prove Himself to man, how He has chosen to give absolute proof of Himself, that He not only exists but that He is active in the affairs of man.

It is fulfilled Prophecy which then convinces us that everything else which God has promised, He will fulfill completely and absolutely.

Many areas of Prophecy were fulfilled in Jesus Christ's first coming to Earth. In my opinion, the most profound Prophecy in all Scripture is what we find in Daniel 9: the 70 Weeks of Daniel which foretold of Jesus' presentation as King, to Israel... to the very day! This is one of the sure signs that every person who rejects God's Son will be held accountable before Him... every Jew and every Gentile... they should have had the integrity to search it out.

For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

This is one of the most crucial sentences in all of God's Word! Jesus is the Word and the Spirit of Prophecy.

In Deuteronomy, Moses writes: '*... that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.*' Duet 8:3 Jesus, very hungry, quotes this when Satan is tempting Him to turn stones into bread; notice what He says: '*And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.*' Luke 4:4 Here at Grandview, we teach from the KJV. Here is a stark example why: Jesus is the Word of God; He is the One Who spoke that Word to Moses in Deuteronomy and He is the One Who quoted Himself in Luke. It is ludicrous to imagine that Jesus would have left off the most important part of that verse from Deuteronomy: '*but by every word of God.*' If you look it up, you'll find that many other '*major*' translations leave off the latter half of that verse: '*but by every word of God.*' Now I'm quite sure that someone could tell us that this or that ancient manuscript says it as such and such... 'all we brilliant scholars trust these other manuscripts'... but it doesn't take any brilliance at all to know that Jesus would have quoted Himself fully... just something to think about.

Every Word from Jesus is the essence of prophecy; He is the Word and no true prophecy can come to us but through Him; the Holy Spirit turns all glory to the Lord Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ always glorifies God. Any angel who allows himself to be worshipped is taking glory for himself.

John is told he must not worship an angel; that is the essence of demonic worship, the worship of Satan and his fallen angels. Any angel who would allow or welcome worship is a demonic fallen angel; no angel of God would allow such. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only source of true prophecy; He is the Word of God.

Then, immediately following John's understanding of this foundational truth, he sees this glorious prophetic vision:

Verse 11: '*And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*'

Back in chapter 6, we read: 'Behold, a white horse...' and, a red horse and, a black horse, and, 'behold, a pale horse...' None of those four horses with their evil riders were a welcome sight. This white horse, however, is both the most welcome sight of all time and the most unwelcome sight of all time, depending on who it is who sees this white horse and its rider. For those who put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, during the Tribulation, and are still alive... it is the most welcome sight of all time. To all those who have rejected the Lord Jesus Christ during the Tribulation and have put their faith and trust in the Antichrist, taking his mark on their right hands or foreheads, this will be the absolute worst sight of their lives... this means either life, or death!

The Lord Jesus Christ is Faithful and True and here, finally, He will come in all His power and glory to make war on His enemies; no longer the meek, mild, suffering servant; now He is the Majestic Warrior, the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

Verse 12: *'His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.'*

Back at the beginning of this Prophecy, in chapter 1, John saw this same Jesus: *'His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire...'*

Back in chapter 2, to the Church of Pergamos, Jesus promised: *'To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.'*

God has promised us many things, as fellow-heirs with the Lord Jesus Christ; in fact, many of our rewards are related to the rewards of the Lord Jesus Christ for His faithfulness.

Verse 13: *'And he was clothed with vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.'*

A vesture is an outer garment, a cloak or coat; its having been dipped in blood is two-fold: first, He is, and remains, the Lamb of God, slain from the foundation of the World, His blood having been shed to redeem His spotless, virgin Bride. Secondly, this is the blood of His enemies. Remember, back in chapter 14: *'And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰ And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.'*

This is a fierce and bloody time, the bloodiest time in all of human history; never before have so many been killed, slaughtered... this is blood running 5 feet deep, covering the valley floor for 75 miles. That will be the same as, the Willamette Valley covered in 5 feet of blood from Portland to Albany! Incredible; just imagine how many must die for their blood to be so vast in quantity!

This Majestic Warrior is The Word of God! For today's unfaithful pastors, teachers and shepherds to ignore His last letter, His last great Prophecy, is to despise the very Word of God, Himself!

I cannot convey the depth of evil, to rob their people of this last great divine Epistle from God's own Hand. I believe the foremost reason for ignoring The Revelation is embarrassment: that they are ashamed of this last Book of the Bible, that others will think it is silly and that they are silly to believe it. They fear man's contempt more than they value God's approval. Of these, Jesus said, *'But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.'* Matt 10:33

Verse 14: *'And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.'*

And here we go! We've been in Heaven, with our Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ; we have consummated our marriage to Him, we have received our eternal rewards, our bodies were changed, in an instant, at the Rapture, so that we now inhabit glorified, eternal bodies like Jesus Christ's own. All the millions of us, along with the multiplied millions of elect angels... we are all dressed in fine, pure white linen and we have all mounted up on our great white horses, ready to follow the Lord Jesus Christ back down to Earth where we will see Him gain the complete victory over all His enemies, both human and demonic.

Verse 15: *'And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.'*

Here's that great winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God... the Valley of Armageddon is about to be flooded with Blood, 5 feet deep for 75 miles; the Lord Jesus Christ will instantly kill all His enemies; we are told that a great sword will come from His mouth to kill His enemies; I see no reason to doubt that this is exactly what will happen. There is no reason to make excuses for this imagery, to be offended by its unbelievability; to imagine that it must be something else that our puny imaginations can grasp; God said it and that is what it shall be!

We, His children, should never be ashamed of any portion of God's Word; we should glory in believing the impossibility of God and His plans.

When we return with Him, at Armageddon, He will destroy His enemies, the Antichrist and False Prophet will be cast alive into the Lake of Fire, Satan will be bound and cast into the Bottomless Pit for 1000 years and the Lord Jesus Christ will rule over the Nations of Earth with a 'rod of iron' which, by the way, will only apply to the still living, mortal humans who will repopulate the Earth over the next 1000 years in Jesus Christ's Kingdom, who are those who will have escaped death while refusing to receive the Antichrist's Mark of the Beast. We, on the other hand, will have no need of law; we will live within glorified, eternal bodies, no longer having any sin nature; His law is even now written upon our hearts but we still, at this time, wrestle with our sinful nature; our flesh still wants to run into sin while our spirits seek to pull us toward God's will at all times while our souls must now, daily, hourly choose whether we will glorify God in obedience or enter into sin through disobedience.

Verse 16: *'And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.'*

He has one Name written which no one will know but He, Himself but He also has written upon His thigh, His Grand and Glorious Title: **King of kings and Lord of lords!** He is the only rightful King and Lord of all. The King and Lord of all that exists, both within the physical and the spiritual realms, both the seen and the unseen; He is the One Who has condescended to love us, to be known by us and to invite us to be His Bride and fellow-heirs of all that is His.

Verse 17: *'And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; ¹⁸ That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.'*

The greatest slaughter of all time is about to take place. The blood will run 5 feet deep for 75 miles while the corpses are eaten by every vulture and flesh eating bird of God's wise Creation.

This is why God created vultures and fly's maggots: as God's cleanup crews. From the moment of Adam and Eve's sin, death entered Creation; from that day on, everything became touched by death; every living thing on Earth, all plants, animals and humans die and there must be, in God's 'food chain,' those which kill to eat, those which are killed to be eaten and those which consume the things that die. Even the fruit on trees is consigned to death and decay. Birds and animals eat the fruit on trees while insects and maggots eat the fruit which falls and begins to rot. God in His wisdom created all things necessary to deal with death until the Lord Jesus Christ returns and reverses the curse on Creation.

Here, we see the great procession of the King of kings and Lord of Lords, leading His vast army of Saints and angels... ready to step into the physical realm of Earth at the Valley of Armageddon. This is the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is not His coming for us in the Rapture; that happened 7 years before. There is a major and stark difference between these two 'comings:' When He comes for His Church, His Body and Bride, it will be with no warning whatsoever; no one knows the day or the hour of that coming. Also, in that first coming, He will not set foot on the Earth; He will come down only so far as the clouds where He will call us up to meet Him in the air, whereupon He will take us back to His Father's house to the marvelous place He has created for us: *'Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.'* John 14:1

This 'coming,' His Second Coming down to Earth, of which we are now reading in Rev 19, is very different; next lesson, we will see that He does, in fact, come all the way down to Earth and He will stay there/here for the next 1000 years as He rules and reigns, from Jerusalem, over His glorious Earthly Kingdom, during which we will, also, rule and reign with Him.