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Christ The Faithful One

Introduction

The book of "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" carries the onward thought of things opening. Interestingly, after things are opened there is a piece of furniture mentioned, or a manifestation of a person or persons.

For instance:

- a) There is a door opened in heaven and a throne is seen, and then the Throne Sitter (Rev. 4:1-2)
- b) When the seventh seal is opened, there is mention of two altars and an angel (Rev. 8:1-4)
- c) In chapter 11 and 12: "The temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament" (a piece of furniture); and this is followed by a series of persons (Rev. 11:19; 12:1-13)
- d) In chapter 15: "And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: And the seven angels came out of the temple" (Rev. 15:5-6).

At this point one begins to wonder where is this leading to and what are the openings all pointing forward to? Chapter 19 supplies the answer: "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" (Rev. 19:11).

As the judge, the Lord has brought to naught the religious system of the world (Rev. 17:1-18); the economic institutions of the world (Rev. 18:1-24); and now He is going to bring to naught the military of the world (Rev. 19:17-21). What a frightening manifestation of Christ this is. This is not the meek and lowly Jesus, nor the despised Nazarene, but it is the Lord triumphing over all His foes and removing all that is contrary to His exaltation. Both Matthew and Luke wrote that His coming will be "with power and great glory" (Matt. 24:30; Lk. 21:27) and to destroy all those who stand in opposition to Him. There will be no political correctness, neither will there be any compromise, nor any sympathy for those who are standing in opposition to Him. However, this is not a Judge who is out of control because His characteristic of faithfulness will guide Him in His judgments.

The White Horse

The Lord comes upon a white horse with myriads of angelic hosts (Jude 14-15). There was a moment of time when He rode into Jerusalem upon a little donkey within days of His crucifixion at Calvary. When He comes again, He will come into the world on a white horse, exalted by God, and will be the terror of all humanity who stand in objection to Him (Rev. 6:15-17). Only on two occasions in the Scriptures do we read the expression, "White horse" (Rev. 6:2; 19:11). The one who rides the white horse in Rev. 6:2 is none other than the man of sin (2 Thess. 2:3), also known as the false Christ and Antichrist (1 Jn. 2:18). He is the one to whom Satan gives his power and will seek to rule over the earth in a false millennium. The Lord will destroy him (2 Thess. 2:8).

The Triple Distinctive

The Lord is spoken of as having an undisclosed name, a disclosed name, a double superlative title and a twofold character description. They are:

- 1) The Unknown Name
 - a) When such an expression is used by God, it indicates that the distinguishment God has given to the Lord is beyond understanding (Phil. 2:9; Heb. 1:4). It is, I suggest, more than a name whereby one is known. I perceive it to be an incorporation of the stupendous fulness of Christ in every area, but particularly regarding to conquest.
- 2) "The Word of God."
 - a) The literary scriptures have four irrefutable characteristics.
 - i) The fidelity of the scriptures (Rom. 1:2)
 - ii) The sufficiency of the scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16)
 - iii) The finality of the scriptures (Dan. 10:21)
 - iv) The permanency of the scriptures (Lk. 21:33)

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- b) The same truths relate to the Lord. His fidelity is beyond questioning; His sufficiency will never wane to deficiency; His finality as Head and Judge will never be surpassed by another; and His permanency will never end. When He comes as the “Word of God,” those who stand in opposition are doomed to failure. He is the Declarer of all the power and intensiveness of examination of God. He is, and ever was, and will be the full expression of the mind of God relative to the obstinacy and rebellion of all who oppose God and His purposes. He is God for, “In Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily” (Col. 2:9), and as God is unchangeable (Mal. 3:6), as the “Word of God” Christ is unchangeable and time will never weaken His authority.
- 3) “King of Kings, and Lord of Lords”.
- a) You will notice in Rev. 13:1 that the "beast", who will rise and rule all peoples, has ten crowns upon his ten horns signifying his supremacy over the ten kingdoms, and who deliver up their own authority to him (Rev. 17:12–14). These crowns are regal diadems (a different word from victors crowns) and only used for this evil usurper and the Lord Jesus, the rightful supreme ruler of heaven and earth (Matt. 28:18). In Rev. 19:12 reference is made to His wearing many crowns (diadems), for He is the King whose right it is to reign (Ezek. 21:27).
- 4) The twofold character description:
- a) Besides these three names of significance, the Lord alone is qualified to bear the double appellation, “Faithful and True”. He is:
- i) The true bread (Jn. 6:32)
 - ii) The true vine (Jn. 15:1)
 - iii) The true Light (Jn. 1:9)
 - iv) The true witness (Rev. 3:14)
 - v) And as the true God (1 Jn. 5:20).
- As the Faithful and True He will righteously judge. “Faithful” means undeviating. “True” means unalloyed, that which is without corruption or mixture. He who was infinitely faithful and true to God, and His interpretations of scriptures when on earth, is the supreme example for all His children.

Faithfulness

One of the things I find exceedingly difficult is to remain 100% faithful to the word of God. We live in a world of compromise in which every principle of God is being set aside for the easing of man's conscience and the permitting of sin. When we do sin, one of the hardest things to do is to immediately come before God and confess it. Somehow or other we think if we wait for a period of time, then come and confess it, it's not as hard to do. In the Old Testament when the priest sinned, he was to take an animal and kill it, come right up to the veil and sprinkle blood on the veil. Because of this man's sin, that beautiful curtain of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twined linen was marked indelibly by blood because of what he had done. And Yet, when I do sin I feel so embarrassed, but at the same time am comforted by knowing I have a blood sacrifice of the Lord who was always faithful to God. I am comforted by the reality that my acceptance before God is through the faithfulness of the Lord Jesus, even until death.

In the reviewing of the Scriptures for faithful men, it is observed that only three men are known as being faithful.

- a) Abraham, faithful in his calling (Gal. 3:9)
- b) Moses, faithful in God's house which was Israel (Heb. 3:5)
- c) The apostle Paul was counted faithful in the Lord's service (1 Tim. 1:12)

Lifting to a higher level, the recognition of God's faithfulness to the saints of all ages ideally results in proclaiming His praises. His faithfulness “reacheth unto the clouds” (Psa. 36:5) and witness is borne to it (Psa. 40:10). There are six references to God's faithfulness in Psalm 89:1, 2, 5, 8, 24, 33.

When considering the Lord in the context of Revelation 19, this Mighty Warrior will be faithful in the discharge of the judgments deserved by the rebellious. His judgments will never be as one out of control of His emotions,

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but with perfection of justice He will meet out the judgments. Those who have afflicted His people will have justice brought upon them. It will not be justice as man speaks of it, neither will it be the justice of a despot, but a justice of undeviating righteousness. It has ever been this way with God as the Psalmist wrote: "The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether" (Psa. 19:9). They are in perpetuity, "Every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever" (Psa. 119:160), and twice in Revelation we read of them being "true and righteous" (Rev. 16:7; 19:2). These things are not fictional stories, they are the pledges of God and are frightening. If only we had the sight to see their reality.

Throughout the Scriptures attention is drawn to the need for faithfulness. Faithfulness is needed for:

- a) Stewardship (Neh. 13:13; Lk. 12:16, 19; 1 Cor. 4:2)
- b) In witnessing (Prov. 14:5; Rev. 2:13)
- c) In handling the word of God (2 Tim. 2:2).

Great is the responsibility of every elder, evangelist, and teacher to be faithful to the work God has given to them, and no less is the importance of every individual, for each believer had been given a work to do for the glory of God. If we are being faithful there will be no deviation irrespective of how the tempter tries. For to retain that faithfulness, which is characteristic of God and Christ, we need the help of the Spirit of the Living God. God help us to live in such a way as at the Judgment Seat He can declare us "Faithful".

. . . . Rowan Jennings