

### AWAKEN

In the mid-1700's, theologian Johnathan Edwards preached a famous sermon called "*Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*." Vividly depicting the penalties suffered by those who die outside of a relationship with Christ, this sermon was one of the cornerstone messages of the First Great Awakening.

For the previous ten Weeks, we've studied Revelation chapters 1-5. That brought us to the point when the seals were opened. When Christ opened the seals, the Earth received a series of judgments over a seven-year period known as The Tribulation. Those judgments resulted in man-made suffering led by the Antichrist. These judgments also resulted in God-made suffering such as earthquakes, famines, and pestilence.

These seven years close with the Fall of Babylon. After reporting on that scene, John starts chapter 19 by returning his focus (and ours) on the portrait of Christ. The picture of Christ we'll see today is his return to earth as the righteous King and Judge. In Revelation 19, we see the coming fate of sinners in the hands of an angry God.

#### REVELATION 19:9-16

<sup>9</sup> And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God." <sup>10</sup> Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. <sup>13</sup> He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. <sup>16</sup> On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

"*The whole world is in his hands.*" When pondering eternity, we rest on Christ's ultimate victory over his enemies. Sin and Satan will be defeated. Yet, in the meantime, we still struggle.

I heard the song from the QR code on the radio while heading to a funeral earlier this year. The tune stuck in my head and I hummed it all day repeating the chorus, "*everything will be alright.*" Maybe today, that's something you need to hear too—God is in control, everything will be alright.



### DISCUSSION

Who is your favorite fictional hero and why?

1. How did John respond to the words of the angel (10a) and what did the angel say to him? (10b)

2. What did John see next, who was on it, and what did he do? (11)

3. Describe his appearance. (12-13, 16)

4. What did Jesus do and how? (15)

5. How is this portrait of Jesus different from the Gospels?

6. Does this passage change your idea of what it means to be "Christ-like"?

With one study left to go after this week, start praying and asking God what it looks like to finish strong. Don't leave anything on the field. Talk to your coach today.

## STUDY NOTES

### THE WAGES OF SIN

Paul Washer is a preacher who gained a reputation for speaking truth bluntly. Famously, Washer said, “When a man gets saved, he gets saved from God. The justice of God was coming for you. God saved you *from* himself, God saved you *for* himself, and God saved you *by* himself.”

Many people have the wrong notion that Christ’s sacrifice for sin somehow paid off Satan. From Romans 6:23, we discuss sin as a “wage” or “debt” that must be paid. The payment metaphor doesn’t mean *Satan* holds our debt. Satan owns nothing, holds nothing, and has power over nothing that God hasn’t given him.

The metaphor of debt is in relation to God’s righteousness. Through faith in Christ, we have been made righteous before God. The gift of salvation imparts to us the righteousness of Christ. Because of his righteousness, we received what we lacked, and we will not face his justice. For those that haven’t received his righteousness, God’s justice is on its way.

### CHRIST’S GLORY IS REVEALED THROUGH HIS JUSTICE

For those who have been saved by grace through faith in Christ, and have received the righteousness of God, we **are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb**. As John was watching events unfold, the **angel** told him to **write** that down, saying, **“These are the true words of God.”**

Overwhelmed, John **fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.”** Remember that last Week we discussed that only Christ was worthy to open the scrolls. This angel has perfectly served and obeyed God for eternity. Yet, although it is appropriate for John to revere the angel’s interpretation as a divine message, it is wrong for him to revere the messenger, who is not divine but only a servant to the divine.

**Then** suddenly, John **saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse!** What follows is a description of Jesus that many people may not recognize. Many people confuse Jesus as a Mr. Rodgers type—a good teacher preaching peace and love. Fortunately, because of what Christ accomplished on the Cross, that has been the experience of millions. Our experience as a believer means our relationship with Jesus is one of peace, love, and hope. For

those who never accept Christ’s invitation, they will be surprised to meet Jesus as he is described here when he returns as King and Judge.

John sees Jesus, **the one sitting on the white horse, called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.**

### OUR WORSHIP SHOULD RECOGNIZE CHRIST’S JUSTICE

Although the Old Testament pictures Christ’s return in just this way (see Psalm 2), this description radically alters many people’s perceptions of Jesus. He isn’t Mr. Rodgers. He’s a battle-hardened Warrior King full of compassion and violence. Don’t assume Jesus is *only* a Lamb without also recognizing the danger of the Lion.

Those who pridefully stand in opposition will face Christ’s justice. **From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron.** His power is so great, he speaks and foes fall. Graphically and sickeningly, the enemies of God will stain the Saviors feet as they are crushed like grapes as **he will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.**

Don’t confuse Christ’s meekness with weakness. Worshiping Christ should not be limited to him as the Prince of Peace. He will one day judge and make war on his enemies. Conversely, we must not overly celebrate the destruction facing those who “deserve it.” We may be comforted that wicked men will not go unpunished. However, we must share in the compassion of Christ, even toward those who wrong us.

Nothing a person does to us will equate to the suffering they will endure. We must retain compassion knowing that their greater offense is against a holy and eternal God. God’s compassion came in the form of his Son, our Savior. His judgment against the wicked righteously falls upon those who will not receive his love. We do not have the same claim to hold on to unforgiveness. We are not just in our judgment as Christ is. We have been forgiven an eternal debt and we must be willing to share that Good News—even with those who have hurt us.

Hardly anything motivates our worship like seeing lives changed through the power of Christ. His coming justice should motivate our compassion. We must worship Christ and work to see the lost saved so that they too can know him as the **King of kings and Lord of lords.**