

## CONQUEST AND VICTORY

Revelation 6 and 7: 9-10; text Revelation 6: Revelation 6: 2 and Revelation 7: 10  
August 23, 2020

### I. Ideas About the Conqueror on the White Horse

- A. As we read what our text says about the conqueror on the white horse, we might be reminded of some of the great military conquerors in history.

**Revelation 6: 2 (NIV)** I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.

- B. Bible scholars are not agreed as to the identity of the conqueror in our text.

1. Some say the white horse represents a warlike people known as the Parthians, who challenged the Romans for control of the Middle East.
2. Others say it represented the *Anti-Christ* introduced in 1 John 2, called the *Man of Lawlessness* in 2 Thessalonians 2, and symbolically represented as *The Beast* in Revelation 13.
3. Others say the white horse refers to Christ himself or to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
4. But everyone agrees that the white horse is a conquering victorious horse.

#### Questions:

- 1) Who are some of the military conquerors and generals I admire and why?
- 2) Does it bother me that Bible scholars do not agree about who the white horse represents, or for that matter about who or what many of the symbols in the Revelation represent? Why or why not?

### II. How Conquerors Conquer and the Consequences of Their Actions

- A. One way is through war.

**Revelation 6:3-4 (NIV)** When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword.

1. Can we even name a decade in our lifetime when our soldiers weren't fighting somewhere in the world?
2. Wars kill a lot of people, a fact that is emphasized in this scripture.
3. In the first century the Roman government warred against the church of Jesus, killing many believers.
4. Many Christians in subsequent centuries also suffered and died, and that's still happening today in places like the Middle East, North Africa, and North Korea.
5. Christians have even died at the hands of other Christians, who killed their brothers and sister over doctrinal disagreements, but really over land, power, and wealth.
6. Similarly, in our churches today Christians, in their efforts to get what they want and advance their views or even gain power, kill each other's good names and reputations. (See Matthew 5: 21- 22)

- B. People also conquer others in the marketplace.

**Revelation 6:5-6 (NIV)** When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!"

1. The scales represent those used in the marketplace.
2. A denarius was a day's wages in that time.
3. A quart of wheat was the amount of food one person needed to survive, and three quarts of barley barely fed the average family.
4. People have suffered from famines and other natural disasters, but these verses especially refer to the greed of some, who manipulated prices to serve their own ends.
5. Certainly, the Christians in the 7 churches, who lost their businesses and livelihoods could identify with the economically oppressed.
6. Throughout history people have felt this oppression in so many ways (slavery, child labor, starvation wages, colonialism), and it has had terrible consequences.
  - a. In the last century for example, such conditions in Germany led to the rise of Adolph Hitler.
  - b. In other places, it has led to communist revolutions.
  - c. And such wars and revolutions have only brought more misery and death.

#### Questions:

- 1) What wars of conquest come to my mind? Which have been waged by people who claimed to be Christians?
- 2) Whether or not the wars our country fought were justifiable, what have been some horrible consequences of them?
- 3) Have I witnessed "wars" in the church or within or between Christian families, in which participants may not kill each other, but they try hard to kill their opponents' reputations? If so, how did I respond?
- 4) In what ways has Satan continued to war against the Christian church?
- 5) Do I agree that economic oppression has had devastating results? What are some that I know of?
- 6) Have I or someone I know ever been the victim of economic oppression? What are some examples of such oppression can I cite in our world today? Have Christians been particularly targeted?

### III. The Futility of Human Attempts to Conquer Others

**Revelation 6:7-8 (NIV)** When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

**A. Ever since human sin came into the world death has come in many of ways to all people, except Enoch and Elijah.**

**Ecclesiastes 2:16 (NIV)** For the wise man, like the fool, will not be long remembered; in days to come both will be forgotten. Like the fool, the wise man too must die!

- 1. Death is the great leveler-- wise and foolish, rich and poor, famous and unknown, conqueror and conquered all must all die.**
- 2. At that time, none of these distinctions make any difference.**
- 3. And we lose everything we've conquered.**

**B. All people must face judgment.**

**Hebrews 9:27 (NRSV)** "...It is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment."

- 1. Opening the sixth seal reveals Judgment Day at the end of time.**
- 2. After describing what the end of the world will be like, verse 15- 17 says,**

**Revelation 6:15-17 (NIV)** Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

- 3. Everyone is on the same level as they face horrors of judgment and the wrath of the Lamb: kings princes, generals, the rich, the mighty are as scared as every slave and every poor freeman.**

**Questions:**

- 1) What is the sense in striving to conquer (or accomplish) anything if death takes it all away? Some people try to console themselves by thinking that others will remember them. Why is this such an empty hope? If we are dead, will we even know whether people remember us? Will it even matter? Some people try to rest in the comfort that they made a difference. Why is this an empty comfort? What is the only real hope and comfort I have as far as my earthly efforts and accomplishments are concerned? (see Matthew 25: 21 and 24)**
- 2) What takes away the fear of Judgment Day for me? (See John 3: 16- 17, Revelation 3:5 and 20: 15)**

**IV. The Identity of the Real and Only True Conqueror**

- A. The conqueror was not the Parthians, because they were defeated by the Persians, and swallowed up into their empire, which later was conquered by Muslim invaders.**
- B. The conqueror can't be the Anti-Christ, because Revelation 20 tells us the Anti-Christ (who is called The Beast in Revelation) will be defeated by Christ and thrown into eternal hell along with Satan his master.**

**Revelation 20: 10 (NIV)** And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

**C. The conqueror is Christ. (Also see Revelation 19: 11- 21)**

**Revelation 7:9-10 (NIV)** After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

- 1. Jesus conquered not by crushing Satan in a physical battle, but on the cross.**

**Hebrews 9:27-28 (NIV)** Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

- 2. When the fifth seal was opened, we see the souls of those Christians who were martyred and suffered terrible persecution.**
- 3. They are under the altar, saved by the blood of the lamb, and they called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"**
- 4. When the sixth seal is open, he answers their prayers and ours.**
- 5. Throughout the whole history described in these scrolls he was gathering his people from all the nations of the earth.**

**D. Not only is Christ the conqueror, we who believe in him share in his victory.**

- 1. That's true even today**
  - a. In verse 6 the third seal is open to reveal famine and economic oppression,**
  - b. This verse ends with the word "and do not damage the oil and wine."**
  - c. In the Old Testament oil and wine represented God's blessings to his people.**
  - d. As we endure the struggles of life, our kings who reigns on high promises that if put our trust in him and put our treasure in heaven we will never lose our blessing.**
- 2. Truly the best is yet to come.**

**2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NIV)** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

**Questions:**

- 1) Why is Christ the only real conqueror?**
- 2) How did Christ win the victory over Satan and the forces of evil? How should this inform us as we struggle against evil today? Do I think that the victory over evil will ever won on a battle field? Why or why not?**
- 3) How can I know the fruit of Christ's conquest and victory today? What blessings does his conquest give me today?**
- 4) How do I know that I will share in Christ's conquest and victory?**