

88. The Book of Revelation—19:11

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
(8-3-22)

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Today in our study in the Book of Revelation—we find ourselves in chapter 19 starting with verse 11—

Revelation 19:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him...

Don't confuse the rider on this white horse with the rider on the white horse of Revelation 6:2—

Revelation 6:2 (NKJV)

² And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

The rider in chapter 6 is not the true Christ; he is a false-Christ—the Antichrist.

➤ *How do we know that?*

First of all, he is wearing a crown (stephanos) which is not the crown of a king (diadema) but a victor's crown as in athletic competition.

Secondly, he is holding a bow and whenever Jesus is seen holding a weapon in Revelation—it's always a sword.

Here we have the climax of redemptive history—the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to the earth to establish His Kingdom wearing many crowns (diademas)—(verse 12).

Revelation 19:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.*

It may interest you to know that next to the subject of "faith" there is no other subject in the Bible that is mentioned more than the Second Coming of Christ:

- *The Second Coming of Jesus is mentioned 1845 times in the Bible.*
- *One out of every 30 verses mention it.*
- *7 out of 10 chapters in the New Testament talk about it.*
- *For every one time the First Coming is mentioned in the Bible—the Second Coming is mentioned 8 times.*

Yet so many churches and Christians have stopped talking about and looking for the return of Jesus to the earth to establish His Kingdom.

That is because, first of all, many Christian churches don't teach prophecy to their people (liberal churches don't even believe in it) because prophecy, they believe, makes people uncomfortable and diminishes their desire to do the work of the Kingdom right now here on earth.

They apparently hold to the old adage—*"If a person is too heavenly minded they will be no earthly good."* But also, many churches don't talk about or teach prophecy because—truth be told, they wouldn't mind if Jesus didn't come back for another thousand years—or at very least not in their lifetime.

Why? Because here in the West at least they've got it pretty good—so why *'rain on everyone's parade'* with all the 'negativity' that comes with the subject of prophecy—right?!

I mean with God blessing America like He has—doesn't He want us to enjoy the blessings He's given us rather than depress people by teaching about coming judgment and death and famine and disease—you know Revelation stuff?!

First of all, to respond to that logic let me say that 27% of the Bible is prophecy. To not teach prophecy is to not teach over a quarter of God's Word—and didn't Jesus tell us that, *"Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God"?! (Matthew 4:4)*

While it's true that for many years we Christians in America have had it pretty good as God has poured His blessings out upon us—folks, things are a changing! The blessings we have come to expect and even to believe we deserve as Americans—are slowly being removed from our country.

If inflation keeps rising and necessities keep diminishing, or if persecution against Christians begins—the collective cry of the people of God in America could soon be, *"Come quickly Lord Jesus!!"* Don't you know—maybe that is exactly what God is up to in allowing things to get progressively worse and worse in our country and around the western world.

Christians in third-world countries that lack basic necessities and suffer constant persecutions for their faith long for His appearing—

One pastor said with regard to this—

"I once visited an isolated eastern city in the former Soviet Union, where I met with fifteen hundred impoverished Christians. They were the descendants of exiles, and they and their ancestors had suffered terribly under Soviet oppression for three quarters of a century. Their poverty was so severe that they had to work hard every day just to put food on the table. The subject that was most on their hearts was their future in the glory of heaven. I had the privilege of teaching them about that from Scripture for several hours, and many were so overcome that they wept with joy.

Their response was strikingly different from that of many Christians in the West, who have things so good that they do not know what it is to long for heaven. As a result, they live as if going to heaven would be an unwelcome intrusion into their busy schedules—an interruption of their career goals, or vacation plans. They do not want to see heaven until they have enjoyed all the pleasures the world has to offer. When they have seen it all and done it all—or when age or sickness hinder their ability to enjoy those pleasures—then they will be ready for heaven...

When the church loses its focus on heaven, it becomes self-indulgent and self-centered, materialistic and worldly, spiritually weak and lethargic. The pleasures and comforts of this present world consume too much of its time and energy..."

Colossians 3:1–4 (NKJV)

¹ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Revelation 19:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

Once again, here we have the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to the earth to establish His Kingdom.

Now, don't confuse the Second Coming of Christ with the Rapture of the Church.

- *The Rapture happens before the Tribulation Period begins (Chapter 4:1); whereas the Second Coming takes place at the end of the Tribulation Period (Chapter 19).*
- *At the Rapture Jesus comes for His Church and snatches her off of the earth to meet Him in the clouds; at the Second Coming He comes with His Church from heaven to the earth to establish His Kingdom.*

The Bible never speaks of Jesus' Second Coming as a quiet or secret event—that's what cults like the Jehovah's Witnesses teach—

Matthew 24:26-27 (NKJV)

²⁶ Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. ²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Revelation 1:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

We see from Revelation 19 that this event will be sudden, highly visible—and we will have nothing to do in bringing it about.

Now I say that because there are those who believe that Jesus' return and the establishing of His Kingdom will not be something that happens suddenly when He chooses to come—but will be a *process* that Christians will bring about over time through political involvement and electing Christians to public office. Even though I believe in electing Christians to political office—I don't believe that that will bring the Kingdom of God to the earth.

The folks that believe this are called 'Reconstructionists' or 'Kingdom Now' people. "Kingdom Now" is the belief that Christians need to take over positions of power in government because then we can change laws and Christianize the world. Or in other words, 'Bring the Kingdom of God to the earth now' instead of waiting for Jesus to come back and bring it.

In fact, they believe He won't come back *until* we Christianize the world—so we're not waiting on Him—He is waiting on us!

The two main problems I see with this teaching are:

1. It takes our eyes off of the coming of Jesus and puts them onto this world

This is direct violation of Col. 3:2—"Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." Yet with this doctrine—the Church has its 'Great Commission' changed from:

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to everyone so they might be saved.”

TO

“Go into all the world and run for political office so that you can save the world.”

Satan has effectively used this doctrine to take many Christians away from their true mission (the Great Commission)—while redirecting their passion for souls to politics.

This causes them not to watch for *Jesus’* return to earth—but to watch for their particular candidates rise in the polls, while they become obsessed with working to get Christians elected to public office. In the process, effectively neutralizing their witness to the lost people of this world that Jesus was so passionate about reaching with the gospel (Luke 19:10).

We must in these last days—***‘Keep our eyes on the ball!’***

In other words, we must stay focused on what Jesus commanded us to do—preach the gospel to the lost and watch vigilantly for His return:

Revelation 3:3 (NKJV)

³ Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

Mark 13:32-33, 35-37 (NKJV)

³² "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
³³ Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is... ³⁵ Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming--in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning--³⁶ lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. ³⁷ And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

And that brings us to the second main problem I see with *Dominion Theology* or *Kingdom Now* teaching:

2. It renders prophecy not only obsolete but reprehensible in the eyes of those who hold to this doctrine

I read one Christian who holds to this theology who said, *“Anyone looking for the Rapture is a coward looking to escape the earth instead of working right here and now on the earth to bring the Kingdom of God to this world.”*

One well known pastor said with regard to this that—*“Any church that teaches its people prophecy is teaching them a ‘pie in the sky’ theology which is counterproductive to doing the work of God here on the earth—right now!”*

One author put it this way—

“Many Christians and churches today aren’t looking for the Lord’s coming because they believe He won’t come until they Christianize the world—it’s called “Kingdom Now” or “Reconstructionism.” Christian reconstructionism basically teaches that it is the Church’s responsibility to ‘deconstruct’ this present evil age of man’s rule upon the earth and ‘reconstruct’ it by voting Christians into office that will then pass righteous legislation that will transform the world into a Christian ‘utopia’.

It has its roots in liberal theology which has always seen the church’s mission as that of saving humanity—not from hell, but from poverty, injustice, famine, disease—and lately from things like global warming and other environmental issues that are damaging and destroying the earth.

This has become the fastest growing movement in the church today.

These are churches that put down the teaching of prophecy which they say causes people to have their 'heads in the clouds'.

They claim that these people (like you and me) have an 'escapist' mentality, that you're wasting your time studying prophecy and looking for the Rapture (which they say is a joke).

They claim it's keeping you from the real mission of the church which is: social justice, reforming society, bringing mankind into unity and love with each other so that Jesus can come back and inherit the kingdom the church has established on the earth."

Listen, these folks sincerely feel that for a Christian to believe that Jesus will come and Rapture His Church at a time when the world has become so bad and therefore ripe for God's judgment—is to declare defeat!

Dave Hunt—

"Being taken to heaven in the rapture has been to a large extent replaced by the rapidly growing new hope that the church is destined to take over the world and establish the kingdom of God. The focus has turned from winning souls for citizenship in heaven to political and social action aimed at cleaning up society. Scarcely a sermon is being preached about the world to come. Attention is focused instead upon achieving success in this one—if we have a big enough march on Washington and vote in enough of our candidates, then we can make this world a beautiful, safe, moral, and satisfying "Christian" place for our grandchildren. This is a very enticing scenario... (Hunt goes on to say) The trend has accelerated. We could cite the current struggle going on in the Southern Baptist Church as one example. It is the largest Protestant denomination but is presently losing members at a surprising and growing rate to independent churches that deny the rapture, deny any place for national Israel in prophecy, and believe that an elite group of "overcomers" will soon manifest immortality in their bodies without the resurrection or the Second Coming, and take over the world for Christ. Only then will Christ return. Not to take His bride home to heaven as the Bible clearly teaches, however, but to reign over the kingdom that has been established by her for Him here on this earth.

One of the leaders in this movement writes: 'You can study books about going to heaven in a so-called 'rapture' if that turns you on. We want to study the Bible to learn to live and to love and to bring heaven to earth.'"

We are seeing more and more churches adopt this theology especially those in the Emergent Church Movement—but also many others like: Seeker Friendly, Purpose Driven, Reformed, and others who see the church's mission to establish the Kingdom of God on the earth.

Dave Hunt ends with this chilling statement—

"Consequently, those who expect to meet Christ with their feet still planted on earth (instead of in the air at the time of the Rapture)—a "Christ" who has arrived to take over the kingdom they have established in His name-- will have been badly deceived. In fact, they could have been working to build the earthly kingdom for the Antichrist. Yet this teaching that we must take over the world and set up the kingdom for Christ has become the fastest-growing movement within the church today".

Remember what Jesus warned, *"It is an evil servant that says in his/her heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,'" (Matthew 24:48)*

Yes, delaying His coming for any reason including delaying His coming until we (the Church) can establish the Kingdom of God upon the earth thru our political action—

Philippians 3:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ For our citizenship [the Greek word we get the English word 'politics' from] is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 17:9-10 (NKJV)

⁹ I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰ And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.

Jesus never told us to ‘*clean up the fishpond*’—He told us to fish in it!

In John 17 He didn’t pray for the world but for the people who would come to Him out of the world (system) because He knew that God was going to judge and destroy it. (Revelation 6-18) After the fallen world system of man was judged and destroyed—Jesus would come back and establish a new world order, the Kingdom Age.

Revelation 19:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.*

This would have been very graphic to John, because in those days when a king came to a city riding a white horse it meant that he came as a conqueror—to make war.

If he came riding a donkey it meant that he was coming in peace.

Jesus, at the time of His Triumphal entry (the culmination of His first coming), came riding into Jerusalem on a donkey as the Lamb of God, the Peace of Peace.

When He comes the second time, He will be riding a white horse as a King who has come to conquer and take control!

Not Jesus the ‘*Lamb of God*’—but Jesus, the ‘*Lion of the Tribe of Judah*’ who comes to make war and defeat His enemies.

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Want to know more? Click [here](#).

Reach out to us [here](#).

