

# THE LAST BATTLE

REVELATION 19:11-20:15

Having just described the fall of Babylon in the previous visions, John now gives us a vivid description of the last battle, told from 3 different angles. And the fact that Jesus will bring justice upon evil in the world should give the church great strength and hope as we live as Jesus' priest-kings now.

## THE WHITE HORSE & HIS RIDER / REV 19:11-21



John looks into heaven and sees a white horse with his rider.  
Jesus is the Faithful and True witness and servant of God.  
He alone has the authority and the power to rule the world.  
And he is coming to judge the nations for their evil and sin.

He strikes the sword of his mouth and rules with a rod of iron.  
And he alone is King of kings and Lord of lords.  
When his judgement comes the birds will feast on the nations.  
John is using imagery of Gog & Magog (from Ezekiel 39:17).

**THE POINT:** *In the end, evil faces the just wrath of Jesus and is done.*

## THE LAST STAND OF EVIL / REV 20:1-10

John sees another vision of an angel coming from heaven.  
He has a key to the abyss and comes to bind Satan within.  
Satan is kept from deceiving the nations for 1000 years.



John then sees thrones with rulers upon them.  
He also sees the souls of martyrs and those who refused the beast's mark.  
They come to life and reigned with Christ for the 1000 years.

When the 1000 years is over, Satan is released and gathers the nations.  
Gog & Magog show up (again!) to make war against the people of Jesus.  
But in the end the nations are judged and face eternal destruction.

### WHAT DOES THIS VISION MEAN?

There are 3 typical ways this vision is understood:

Premillennial: Christ will return *and then* reign on earth for 1000 years.  
Postmillennial: Christ will return *after* the 1000 years of blessing on earth.  
Amillennial: The 1000 years is *symbolic* of Christ's *current* reign on earth.

## 7 REASONS TO SEE THIS AS SYMBOLIC

1. The book of revelation is predominantly a symbolic book.
2. Numbers in Revelation are predominately symbolic.
3. Revelation moves forward through cycles not time-lines.
4. Almost everything in this vision is symbolic.
5. A literal 1000 year reign of Jesus is taught no where else in the Bible.
6. The New Testament views history in 2 ages not 3 (Ephesians 1:21).
7. There are clearer passages about Jesus' return (1 Cor. 15:22–24).

***This vision is about the church's victory in Christ in the present age as the basis of hope that Christ will bring final victory over evil in the end.***

## SOME CHALLENGES WITH THIS VIEW:

1. Doesn't 20:1 come after 19:21 (then I saw!)? Rev 8:2 / Rev 16:1
2. How is Satan bound in this age? Mk 3:26–27 / Jn 12:27–32 / Acts 28:28
3. How can the church already be resurrected? Jn 5:25–29 / Col 3:1–4

**THE POINT:** *This vision is a theological claim for a pastoral concern.*

### *A Theological Claim*

The church of Jesus Christ is reigning now as priest-kings in Christ in spite of her exile from the world and persecution.

### *A Pastoral Concern*

So the church should resist giving her allegiance to the world and remain faithful to Christ even unto death.

## THE BOOKS ARE OPENED / REV 20:11–14



John then sees a great white throne with the Almighty upon it.  
The earth and the sky has fled and the end has come.  
The LORD opens books to bring judgement upon the earth.

The dead are raised to life and stand before the judgement seat of God.  
Everyone is judged according to their deeds and cast away to be punished.  
Even Death and Hades, along with the great chaos waters, are cast away.

But there is another book—the Book of Life, the Lamb's Book of Life.  
And anyone whose name is in that book does not face judgement.  
Everyone will be judged according to their deeds unless they are in Christ.

**THE POINT:** *Faithfulness to Christ is our only hope for eternal life.*