

Victory Rides a White Horse

by Pastor Marvin R. Barham

When trials come our way it is innate for us to seek understanding that we might find comfort with some explanation that hopefully makes sense of it all. There is a part of us that seeks to find some sense of justice in that which seems to have unjustly befallen us. God has no quarrel with this anthropomorphic (ascribing human characteristics to nonhuman or unnatural things) part of our fleshly quest. For in it we will find truth and the will of Father. The trouble with seeking transcendent answers to human questions is that we often become angry or frustrated and forsake our mortal humility and risk missing the hope that awaits us.

Look with me in **Exodus 4:20-21** *20And Moses took his wife and his sons, and set them upon an ass, and he returned to the land of Egypt: and Moses took the rod of God in his hand. 21And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go.* As witnesses to the hope we have in Christ we look back at Patriarchs such as Moses and view them as great men of faith and power. The signs and wonders God wrought at the hand of Moses, you would have thought, would have placed him in a place of high esteem and doubtless leadership among his people of his day. You would have thought that when Moses walked back into Egypt, with the rod of God in his hand and his fellow Hebrews watched the wonders, that they would have perceived their deliverance a sure thing. Instead, it was just the opposite. Moses did not ride into Egypt parading authority and wielding his might. Instead, he came in humility yet with the authority of God Almighty.

We find this same pattern of authority, bridled with humility, spoken of the Messiah by the prophet Zechariah in **Zechariah 9:9** *9Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.* Note the characteristics of His nature – He is just, He is humble and has salvation yet He rides upon an ass.

A.W. Tozer states that “Humility is the mark of a true Christian.” Dr. Ron Moseley states that the riding of an ass comes from a Jewish idiom or cultural idea of one of low esteem or humility. However, it was also relating to the idea of God’s Kingdom to come. It was thought that if the Messiah came riding on an ass then His Kingdom was not ready but if He came riding on a white stallion then His Kingdom was ready to receive Him and His authority would reign over all the earth.¹

In Matthew 21 we find the fulfillment, of the foreshadow Moses as a deliverer, and the prophecy of the Messiah in Zechariah. **Matthew 21:1-10** *1And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, 2Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me. 3And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them. 4All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, 5Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass. 6And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, 7And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon. 8And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way. 9And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the*

son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. 10And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this?

At this time Jesus was fulfilling that which was foretold of the coming and triumphant entry of the King of Kings not only into Jerusalem but into the realm of creation, mankind, and history. In this passage, with Hebraic cultural understanding, the King comes but His Kingdom was not yet ready to be received in the earth. The fulfilling of the dispensation or plan of God was still unfolding. When all in the natural realm was redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, the Word of God would ride upon a white horse and proclaim the triumphant Victory – “The Kingdom of God has come among you!” The disciples presumed that the Messiah would come riding on this white stallion, wielding a sword, over throw the Roman Empire and set them up as rulers over the kingdoms of men. Instead, He comes riding on an ass.

We find in the writing of John that Jesus was the Word of God. Such as in **John 1:1** *1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.; John 1:12-14* *12But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:13Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.;* and **John 1:17** *17For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.* The Psalmist David even spoke of the “Word” in an anatomical sense in **Psalms 107:19-21** *19Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses. 20He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. 21Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!;* and **Psalms 147:15** *15He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth: his word runneth very swiftly.*

The ancient Hebrew concept of “Memra” is illustrated in these Scriptures. The word *Memra* was the Aramaic expression of the term “the Word”. The Hebrew for the “word” was found throughout the Hebrew Scriptures as the word “*dayar*” which was translated as “*logos*”. As a result Jewish theologians frequently referred to the term *Memra* as “*The Word of God*”.¹ The prophets spoke of Him who would come in humility bringing His Kingdom to deliver and heal His people. Christ comes and heals the sick, gives grace to the sinner, and has authority over demons and the elements of the earth. With His whole life, Christ is the fulfillment of the law of God with it written upon His heart and forehead, and speaks truth to those who would hear. Yet, “the Word” comes riding into Jerusalem on an ass not a white horse. If this is the Messiah, where is his triumphed entry and the victory of His Kingdom’s rule? When would His Kingdom be ready and Him mount His white horse that His Kingdom shall be ushered in and His authority subdue the earth?

We find the answer in **Revelations 19:10-14** *10And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. 11And 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. 12His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.*

Here the angel clearly testifies to the covenant and the Kingdom inheritance of the living will and testament of Christ Jesus. He is the spirit of prophecy, the fulfillment of prophecy, the spoken Word of God. Here He is again called faithful and true and He remains so today to you and I and those who are

called by His name and live in His righteousness. His vesture was dipped in blood and a new covenant cut for us that we might be engrafted into the inheritance of His Kingdom as Sons and Daughters. In Matthew He rode upon an ass and they asked, "Who is this?" In Revelations His name is revealed to us, He is "The Word of God". He no longer rides upon an ass. Having conquered all that condemns men in heaven and earth and having victory over sin and death, He now rides a white horse and His Kingdom is forever. His Kingdom reigns now. He is not waiting to be crowned and receive His authority, He has already been crowned and His authority is present with us today making us more than conquerors. Can you picture our King, crowned with authority over all heaven and earth, sitting on His white horse sounding a charge to His bride, the church, the armies behind Him and He looks behind Him to find they are all trying to following Him while sitting on asses? Why? Because they do not really know His name, or have His name written on their breastplates, much less realize their King provided them with white stallions to ride into battle. Here we see the church riding stubborn, kicking, slow moving asses while trying to following a King who rides a brilliant and powerful, white stallion.

Revelations 6:1-2 *1And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. 2And I saw, and behold a **white horse**: and **he that sat on him had a bow**; and **a crown** was given unto him: and **he went forth conquering, and to conquer.***

Why does the church look like she is riding an ass and the rest of the world asking, "Who is she?" Because we do not realize that our King is riding a white horse. His Kingdom is not waiting on us to make it ready; He made it ready for us. The revelation is not of something to come, but of something that was fulfilled in Christ and is here with us now. Just as in Matthew, the church is hoping and looking for our King to someday come riding into town on a white horse and conquer sin in this earth, while she rides a weak and slow ass thinking she should just keep a complacent low cultural profile. All the while the world cannot tell the church from the ass. When Jesus rode in on an ass it was not because He had negated His authority but it was a sign of where His people were. So it is today. While our King rides a white stallion calling for a charge against the powers of darkness, His church cavalry is riding an ass.

Revelations 19:14 said, "**14And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.**"

Are you a part of that army? Looking at your life, what do you ride? **Have you gotten off the white horse and gotten on an ass?** Do you wear the uniform of His army, are you clothed in fine, white, clean linens of righteousness that were cleansed by His blood? If not, you have the power today change that right now today. Take the Spirit of God within you, embrace the Word of God in your life and ride that white horse with your King and go forth and conquer whatever it is that is before you today. Victory rides a white horse.