

Vision of the End – Celebration of God’s Saints

The Enemy’s Final Defeat

In Revelation 19:19–21 John is again shown the great army gathered for battle that he saw in Revelation 16:12–21. Here he is shown a different perspective of the same scene—this one focuses on the complete and final destruction of the beast from the sea and the beast from the earth (here called the false prophet).

This great army is arrayed to fight against the rider on the white horse and his army. But as in chapter 16, the battle is not described. Perhaps none took place. What John sees is the victory of the King of kings and the Lord of lords over all earthly kingdoms opposed to Him (the beast of the sea) and over all philosophies and religions—including apostate Christianity (the beast from the earth)—that would lead people away from Christ in whom alone is salvation. This evidently is the fulfillment of Ezekiel’s prophecy concerning the defeat of Gog and his armies. See Ezekiel 38–39, especially 39:17–24 and Revelation 20:7–10. Revelation 19:21 is especially meaningful.

It reminds us that it is the Word of God that judges people. For those who reject Christ and His salvation, the Word of God is the instrument of judgment and eternal destruction, while for those whom the Spirit brings to faith through the Gospel it is the means of eternal life.