

The Rider is Coming - Part 1

A story to end all stories

The subject, *'the rider is coming'* is burning deep within me. Jesus is the rider, the rider on the white horse. Who and what he IS, is burning in my heart. He has been waiting for the past two millennia to ride. The day when He returns will be the greatest day in human history. He has already planned and set the scene; the scene for his return. It is called the battle of Armageddon and He has already decided to pick the fight with His enemies. It will be a battle to end all battles. It is a battle of incredible odds. Do you know that Jesus loves odds, he loves the impossible, and He loves pulling off a victory that is thought by us as being inconceivably impossible to win. The odds for this battle will be around 10-20 million to one. And he has set them up (the antichrist and the armies of the nations) which you will soon discover to be true. It will be similar to Pharaoh and the Hebrews at the Red sea. I ask you to enter in. Enter in by stirring up your holy imagination. Allow the warrior spirit to be stirred up within you. Allow yourself time at a later date to research the subject matter of the return of the king who is the rider on the white horse, the God-man who will do it all by himself. It isn't that we will not have done our part, because we will have. We will have taken the nations for Him before His return.

The Rider is the Warrior

In the charismatic era the term "the warrior bride" was popular. A number of songs refer to the end-time church as "the warrior bride". We don't seem to focus much on the "warrior" though. We seem to have missed this facet of His makeup. We should, of course, already know him as the bridegroom and the king, and hopefully have some understanding of Him as the judge and of course Lord, but not as: 'the warrior'.

As the Warrior, he has the right to decide who lives and who dies, as He is the one who created all life, and as such He is the one who legally has the right to terminate life. We need to start becoming familiar with Jesus as the Warrior, not just because it gives us a mental picture of all that is noble but to be able to embrace the violence of it. So the rider is the Warrior and when he comes to do battle he will take life. When a knight on his steed at the rails lowers his visor, he has only one thing in mind, it is where the point of his lance is going to strike. When Jesus decimates his enemies in the battle of Armageddon, He will have one thing on his mind. It will be to kill His enemies. It will be swift, by the word of his mouth or by whatever means he chooses. So, we need to understand that Jesus will kill and then he will judge those souls later at the Great White Throne. In the moment of battle he will not be sitting as judge. Do not think He has got the process the wrong way around. He has not. We must learn that His wisdom and actions are always trustworthy even though the opposite may seem true to us. Jesus is the Warrior.

The Riders Anger.

On that great day he will call to them:

"You nations and you people, you who have refused my love for so long, you who have killed and shed the blood of my people and my beloved bride, you who I have tolerated for so long, you have finally, finally aroused my anger and I cannot permit you to live any longer. It is time for you to meet your end. It is time for you to come up against me. So prepare yourself now for war. Wake up your mighty men, Come on, let all of you draw near in this plain that I have prepared for you. If you haven't got any swords or spears, make them with your plough shears and pruning hooks. If you are weak say "I am strong". Assemble all your armies from the nations and come to do battle against me. Come on, come on up to the valley of Jehoshaphat. It is here that I am going to slay you and feed your carcasses to the birds of the air."

Warriors in our day

Before progressing further, let us for a moment look at a few of the heroes and heroines in popular movies of our day and how they portray Jesus as The Light against the dark. All best selling stories and movies have three major ingredients. These are (1) a battle to fight (2) a beauty to rescue and (3) an adventure to live. I believe in every great movie the Holy Spirit has had influence. Jesus also embraces all these three ingredients in His story.

By the way, the best movies and stories are still to be revealed and will have amazing input by the Holy Spirit.

I like Steven Segal. He has a way about him. In many of his movies, he is the quiet, handsome guy with the pony tail but, he picks the fight with the bad guys. He has a 7th-dan black belt in Aikido. Steven is like the nice quiet Jesus, and it will be Jesus who picks the fight with Satan and the antichrist. He will pick the biggest fight in world history. You wouldn't expect Him to do anything less, would you? He isn't coming to win some pathetic little battle. He is coming to win the war of the ages.

In the movie Gladiator, we see the wounded Maximus played by Russell Crowe pitted against Commodus the neurotic Roman emperor. The final confrontation is at the Coliseum in front of the emperor's home crowd. The crowd however, during the fight turn on their emperor in favour of the righteous Maximus, who then slays the emperor by stabbing him through the back of his neck. Maximus, however dies from his wounds and is carried off shoulder high by the Roman guard. Rome is then returned to government by the people. If you use your holy imagination, Jesus is represented by Maximus and Satan by Commodus. In the final battle it will be one on one, and Jesus will slay Satan with the sword of his mouth. Notice how the crowd changes their allegiance and correct government is restored!

Then we have another of my favourites. The Highlander series featuring the blue eyed Christopher Lambert as McLeod of the clan McCleod. He is the Scottish immortal who has come to earth to fight the evil ones from the dark side. The sword battles are something to behold. Decapitation of the enemy is always the end result. When this happens, the quickening takes place, and the victor receives the other's power. This is always shown very graphically by displays of electricity and lightning in the heavens which destroy buildings and shatter glass and anything else nearby. It is like an awesome display of God's power being made manifest in the heavenlies and on Earth. There will be angelic conflicts between God's forces and Satan's forces in the time frame we are now referring to. We know this because Satan and his angels are cast out of heaven to the earth. (Rev 12:9)

Then in Braveheart, another great movie that stirs our hearts, we have Mel Gibson who plays William Wallace who also comes to pick a fight with the English. He says to the men before him, "Sons of Scotland, I am William Wallace, and I see a whole army of my countrymen here in defiance of tyranny. You've come to fight as free men, and free men you are. What will you do with that freedom? Will you fight? Aye, fight and you may die, run and you will live, at least a while. And dying in your bed many years from now, would be willing to trade all the days from this day to that for one chance, just one chance to come back here and tell our enemies that they may take our lives but they will never take our freedom." Likewise, Jesus, as our commander, is calling us to enlist for the fight, this end-time battle. Are we willing to trade our life, from this day till His coming (our time, our resources and our life if necessary) for the glory that is set before us. Will we take the nations for Him and depose the evil that prevents the glory of the nations from shining forth?

And not to leave the ladies out, we have Joan of Arc, who at the tender age of 18, is given charge of the armies of France by Charles king of France to lead them into battle against the British. The banner she bore into battle carried the name of Jesus. Her strategy for warfare was aggressive which took the British by surprise. She fought and won the battles against the English. A year later she was captured and burned at the stake as a heretic. Joan is a picture of servanthood. Jesus will raise men and women who appear to be nobodies (to the world), and elevate them to leadership positions in all spheres and cultural mountains of nations. They will be given strategies and divine favour to bring about righteousness in the nations.

While all those warrior heroes and heroines are wonderful and do stir and capture something within our being, it is Jesus as 'the Rider' who will write the most magnificent story ever told. It will be the movie played over and over in heaven for all eternity. It will be the best seller ever!

And so it is 'the rider' who should capture your heart and imagination. If you enter in and join Him now for His final conquest, you will be there on that great day when He returns. It is my desire, my strongest desire that I will be there with Him. I know from scripture that I will not be physically engaged in the battle, but you and I will be cheering on the sidelines urging Him on to His great victory. It will be a time as immortals that we will never forget. It will likely be our greatest memory for all eternity.

The Story of the Rider

So now at last we come to 'The Story of the Rider'. It is a true story. God's word is His story and we are all written into that story. The part of the story we are looking at is history still in the making. The future has already been written, but we are privileged to see it now before it becomes reality.

The Rider has been waiting behind the scenes for a large part of eternity. He has been behind the veil. He, (as the Rider), has remained in the background and inconspicuous to a large degree. He has been waiting for the specifically appointed time and date in natural history when it will be His time to ride. This time is fast approaching. While He has been there all the time, there has never been a time when he has not been there. He's been waiting, waiting, waiting. He's been sharpening his sword (to use a figure of speech) for the great and terrible day of the Lord. It is going to be great if you are with him and it's going to be very terrible if you are not with Him.

The main storyline is in Revelation 19:11-16 (my version)

"I was in the spirit and I saw an open heaven. I was allowed to see what was about to shortly take place on the earth. I saw a horse, it was a white horse. There was no rider at first, but then I saw Him. He was awesome in splendour, and he mounted the white horse. I fell with my face to the ground, but he who was on the horse asked me to stand up. I observed that the rider who sat on the horse was called faithful and true. There was a banner of righteousness surrounding him, and in righteousness He was about to ride forth to judge the nations, as this had been entrusted to him by the Father, and to make war against them for they have angered him greatly by killing many of his beloved people and by their defiling immorality. His eyes were like torches of flaming fire. I perceive that every secret and evil deed will be exposed by those eyes. On His head were many crowns. These were not only the crowns of His enemies but the eternal crowns displaying His glory and magnificence. He had a name written on Him that no one except He Himself knew. This was because no-one else had the right to name him and thus take away His authority. He is, after all, the sovereign Lord of his new creation. I saw that His clothes and His robe were scarlet, red with the blood of his enemies, for He had trampled them in the fury of His winepress. His name was the word of God, for he slew them with the word of his mouth. And I saw us, we were with the armies of heaven, and we were clothed in fine linen, white and clean. We followed him on our own white

horses. I continued looking in this awesome vision, and I saw that out of His mouth came a sharp sword with which He then struck the nations. He, Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. And I saw that on His robe and on His thigh was a name written: **King of kings and Lord of lords**. It was here that my vision ended.”

A summary of the prevailing conditions just prior to the Rider’s coming

While these events listed below may not be specifically chronological, there is an order to them. It is because God increases the degree of judgement to bring people to himself (even at this late stage). Many verses in the bible and Revelation may be viewed thematically. This means you look at different verses that are talking about the same topic and join them together to give you a clear picture of what is happening.

- all the 7 seal judgements have occurred
- all the trumpet judgements are just concluding:
- we are at the midpoint of the 7 year tribulation period
- a third of earth’s food supply on land and sea destroyed. (Rev 16:3,4)
- a third of the water supply poisoned. (Rev 8:10-11)
- the sky is darkening from the smoke of the bottomless pit. (Rev 9:2), light and heat will be affected. (Isa 13:8-10)
- Satan and his fallen angels will be bodily on the earth (Isa 34:4, Dan 8:10, Rev 6:3,12:9)
- demonic beings released from the abyss who sting those with the mark of the beast
- a further release of demonic horsemen who kill another 4 billion people.
- at this time in natural history, we come to the 7th trumpet and the saints are now raptured. We will individually appear before the Lord for evaluation. We will receive our immortal bodies, and He will then reward according to our deeds. Then it is time for:

The Rider in the Sky

Do you know that ‘the Rider in the Sky’ will be the greatest show on earth. The greatest show ever seen in the heavenlies by people on the earth. May I suggest to you though, that you don’t want to be seeing the rider from below. If you have this perspective, trouble is coming your way with a capital ‘T’. All of heaven has been waiting for the rider to mount the white horse. Speculation and excitement in heaven has been running riot for ages. “Have you seen Him?” they ask each other. “When is He going to ride?” is the other common question discussed over and over at the coffee break.

For Jesus to appear in the sky for all to see, the veil between heaven and earth will be removed, it will pass away, it will be rolled up like a scroll. This is for **the unveiling of Jesus**, so those on the earth will see Him as He is. (Isa 34:4, 40:5, 1John 3:2, Rev 6:14). *You will observe in many other scripture passages it says “the heavens were opened and I saw.”*

Now this is the beginning of the end of the kingdom of the antichrist, no more chances for those left on the earth. They will see Him “as He is” in the sky. Suddenly everybody will realise, “Oh boy, this is the big day.” There can be no more pretence. The Rider is coming.

To be continued in Part 2

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