

Compelling Portrait Part 12: Return of the King

Objective: To encourage us to find hope and courage in the promise that Jesus has already won the victory over the world.

Read together:

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 19:11-16

- What comes to mind when you think about the book of Revelation? What has influenced your thinking?
- When you read the book of Revelation, do you find it to be scary and confusing or hopeful and comforting? Why?
- How is John's picture of Jesus as a returning king different from the picture of Jesus we find in the Gospels?
- Why do you think there is such a contrast in those two pictures?
- When you are facing difficult, scary or painful circumstances, what helps you get through them?
- Does knowing the final outcome of life (and history) change the way you approach each day, especially the challenging ones?
- How should knowing that Jesus will return and deliver his people bring hope and courage to you?

Final Thought: Jesus said that we would have pain and difficulty in this life, but he has overcome. As you endure hardship, make sure you do so looking forward to the hope Jesus has promised.

This Week: Regardless of what you are facing, take some time to consider the victory you have in Jesus.

