



Hope, Because Jesus Is King
Revelation 19

Lake Arrowhead Church, Waleska, Georgia
©Monty Watson – January 11, 2026

HOPE, BECAUSE JESUS IS KING Revelation 19

HOPE. We say it all the time. “I hope so” or “I hope things work out.” We hope the problem goes away. We hope tomorrow is a better day. But that’s just wishful thinking. Hope is more than that. Hope is more than optimism, fate, or good luck. True hope, biblical hope, is based on the promises of God. If God promised, it’s guaranteed.

I love the hymn by the Getty songwriting team which asks the question, “What is our hope in life and death?”¹ The resounding answer is “Christ alone!” ***Our hope in life and death is Christ alone! Hope is trusting that He will help us in this life and trusting that He will get us to the next life. That’s why, as the Bible says, we “rejoice in hope!”*** (Romans 12:12).

That sounds good, but you may be feeling pretty hopeless right now. Prayers have yet to be answered. Miracles have yet to come. Circumstances are getting worse. And your faith is weak. You may be dealing with health issues, some annoying and some serious. You may be dealing with financial worries. You may be praying for a prodigal who is far from God. You may be dealing with disappointment or depression, loneliness or fear, grief or loss. You may be confused and wonder, “Where is God?”

So, in times like these, does being a Christian make any difference? The answer is yes! Because our hope in life and death is Christ alone!

We have this hope because, as David Jeremiah said, “Hope is a Person.”² The Bible calls Him “the God of hope.”³ Again, hope is not wishful thinking. Hope is a person. And because our hope is in God – a God who is great, a God who is good, and a God who loves us – we can rejoice in advance, acting as if we have already received His promises. Therefore, we “rejoice” now, “in hope” of what is to come.

Ultimately, our hope is founded on the victory of Jesus Christ. The first time Jesus came, He wore the crown of thorns. But the next time He comes, He will be wearing the crown of glory. That’s why we have hope. Because Jesus Christ is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!⁴ ***And the King of Kings promises to help us in this life and promises to get us to the next life.***

REVELATION 19

In the book of Revelation, the Apostle John described the time he was allowed a peek into heaven. He saw and heard all of heaven worshiping Jesus as the Lamb of God. John heard all of heaven worshiping Jesus as the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Revelation chapters 5 and 19 describe what John saw and heard.

“I looked and heard the voice of many angels, thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and with a loud voice sang, ‘Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!’”

“Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, singing, ‘To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, forever and ever!’ Then all the creatures in heaven fell down and worshiped.”

“Then I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting, **‘Hallelujah!** Salvation and glory and power belong to our God.’ ... Again, they shouted, **‘Hallelujah!’** ... and all the creatures of heaven fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried out, ‘Amen, **Hallelujah!**’”

“Then I heard what sounded like the roar of rushing waters and loud peals of thunder, **‘Hallelujah!** For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!’” (Revelation 5:11-14, 19:1-7).

John heard all of heaven shout “Hallelujah!”⁵ The word is found many times in the Old Testament, but this is the first time it appears in the New Testament, and all four occurrences come in the last book of the Bible. It’s as if “Hallelujah” was reserved for this moment, for this climax in history.

The great composer George Handel was in poor health and facing bankruptcy.⁶ In deep despair, Handel isolated himself to seek God’s help. He withdrew to his music, not looking to compose anything, but simply looking for solace. Yet in that isolation, seeking God, God met him, and his famous masterpiece was born. Handel wrote the “Messiah” in 23 days and the lyrics are based on Revelation 19. And Handel said of those days, “I could see all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself.” Every note came from being in the presence of God. When the “Messiah” was first performed in London, in 1743, at the singing of the “Hallelujah Chorus,” the King of England stood to his feet. The rest of the audience stood as well. The King of England realized there was a greater king, and that night he honored the King of Kings. To this day, everyone stands at the singing of the “Hallelujah Chorus.” And one day, when the King of Kings returns, the entire world will stand and sing “Hallelujah.”

This is not fiction. This is not some mythical tale like *The Lord of the Rings*. This is really going to happen.

Listen to John describe the return of Jesus Christ. “I saw heaven opened and before me was a white horse” with Jesus sitting on the horse (Revelation 19:11). When Roman generals were victorious in battle, they rode a white horse leading their armies in a grand parade. The white horse was a symbol of victory, and one day, Jesus will return riding a white horse of victory.

Verse 11 calls Him “Faithful and True.” Verse 12 says, “He has a name written on Him that no one knows but Him.” Verse 13 says, “His name is the Word of God.” He is truth and every word He speaks is true.

John writes that Jesus will return “with righteousness to judge and make war. And His eyes are like blazing fire” (Revelation 19:11-12). He is coming with fury and justice, to judge and destroy all wickedness and rebellion, and to right every wrong. Jesus will judge every sin, every crime, and every injustice.

He will be “dressed in a robe dipped in blood” (Revelation 19:13). This is most likely a reference to His crucifixion, the shedding of His blood for our sin. Or it could be a reference to a prophecy of Isaiah, about the blood of His enemies splattering on His garments.⁷ With either interpretation, the idea is victory.

Following Him will be “the armies of heaven, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of His mouth comes 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” (Revelation 19:14-15). Again, that comes from a prophecy in Isaiah. Jesus with blazing eyes and a sword coming out of His mouth. Not your typical children’s bedtime story, is it?

“And on His head are many crowns.” “Many crowns” refers to His dominion over many nations, over all nations. “And on His robe and on His thigh He has this name written – KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS” (Revelation 19:12, 16). Such a title confirms that Jesus is superior, supreme, and sovereign. He is the highest king, the greatest king, the most powerful king, the most righteous king, the most loving king. He is the King of Kings!

KING OF KINGS

America was founded in revolt of monarchy. When George Washington became president, the new government wanted to honor the general who led the victory in the Revolutionary War. It was suggested that Washington be called “His High Mightiness, the President.” But Washington felt it smacked of royalty and insisted that he simply be called “Mr. President.” Yet throughout history, there have been plenty of monarchs who became dictators, who were driven by pride, power, and greed, and who were oppressive and unjust.

But Jesus is not like that.⁸ Listen to what Jesus is like and why He deserves to be worshiped as the King of Kings. This is why we have hope.

Jesus is the King of Kings because He is the Creator of all that is.⁹ Colossians 1 says, “For by him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities, all things were created by him and for him” (Colossians 1:16-17, NIV).

He is the King of Kings because He is eternal. The Bible calls Him “the Alpha and the Omega,” referring to the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. He is “the Alpha and the Omega, who is and who was and who is to come” (Revelation 1:8, NAS).¹⁰

He is the King of Kings because He is sovereign. Jesus sits on His throne governing everything that happens in the world. “O Lord,” David cried out, “You alone are the God who is in heaven. You are ruler of all the kingdoms of the earth. You are powerful and mighty, no one can stand against you!” (2 Chronicles 20:6, NLT).¹¹

Jesus was believed to be the King of Kings from the moment of His birth. When the magi heard about the birth of the Jewish Messiah, they traveled a thousand miles to Jerusalem to find

him. “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him” (Matthew 2:2, NIV). And these dignified men bowed down before a child because they believed He was a king.

Jesus deserves to be called the King of Kings because He sacrificed His life for us.¹² The Bible says He “bore our sins in His body on the cross” (1 Peter 2:24, NAS). Jesus did not merely take our sin and nail it to the cross, He absorbed our sin and nailed Himself to the cross. That’s why we join all of heaven singing, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive honor and glory and blessing” (Revelation 5:12).

Jesus proves He is the King of Kings because He supernaturally rose from the dead.¹³ What did the angel say to the women that Easter morning? “He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said He would” (Matthew 28:6, NAS). And when the disciples saw Him alive again, “they worshiped Him” (Matthew 28:17). The resurrection proves that Jesus is the Son of God and the King of Kings.

Jesus is the King of Kings because He is the only way to salvation and eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16, NIV). Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6, NIV). “There is salvation in no one else” (Acts 4:12, NAS).

Add up these truths and the evidence is overwhelming. ***Jesus Christ is the King of Kings, and that’s why we have hope!***

HOPE

That’s great theology, but what does it have to do with real life? With your life? With what you’re going through right now? I could share a dozen stories of desperation and craving hope. But this is about your story, about your desperation, about your craving for hope. Where do you go for hope? Where do you go for help?

The only answer is Jesus. He is the only one who can help. He is our only hope. When we’re burdened, worried, or brokenhearted, the only thing we can do, and the best thing we can do, is to take it all to Him. The Bible says, “Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7). He cares about us. He really does. And He invites to bring all our burdens and worries to Him.

The Bible is filled with promises. Time and again, the Lord promised to come through for His people. And His promises are based on His character, on His faithfulness, and on His love for us. Joshua trusted Him, when he said, “Not one of all the Lord’s good promises to the house of Israel failed, every one was fulfilled” (Joshua 21:45, NIV). If God promised, it’s guaranteed.

Job trusted Him. After tragedy struck and Job lost his family and his fortune, he said, “Though He slay me, I will hope in Him” (Job 13:15, NAS). Job was saying, “Even if the worst happens, I will still trust God.”

David trusted Him, and expressed his hope in God time and again in his psalms. “I hope in You, O Lord, I know You will answer” (Psalm 38:15, NASB 1995). “You are my hope, O Lord God. You are my confidence from my youth” (Psalm 71:5, NAS). David was saying, “Lord, I’ve been trusting You since I was a child, and I’m not going to stop now.”

Paul continued the theme of hope in his New Testament writings. When it came to death, Paul wrote, “We do not grieve as those who have no hope” (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Why? Because “we set our hope on the living God” (1 Timothy 4:10, NAS). Because we have the “hope of eternal life” (Titus 1:2, NAS). And praying over every believer, Paul said, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope” (Romans 15:13, NIV). Remember, hope is in the midst of. In midst of the pain or problems. In midst of it, “may the God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope.

The writer of Hebrews emphasized hope, urging us to “hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful” (Hebrews 10:23, ESV). Why do we have hope? Because God is faithful. Because God promised. And if God promised, it’s guaranteed.

One of the greatest verses on hope is Hebrews 6:19, which says, “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf” (Hebrews 6:19-20, NIV). The “inner sanctuary behind the curtain” is the throne of God. The anchor is tethered to the throne of God. No matter what storms rage in this life, nothing can break the chain from your soul to His throne. Hope is an anchor for our soul, and it is tethered to the throne of God.

If you need a book on hope, I highly recommend Lee Strobel’s book *The Case of Hope*. Lee Strobel defines hope as “the sense of expectancy and optimism that God wants to instill in all of us who love him and have faith in him. It’s an overriding confidence he gives, reminding us that, even in the midst of our greatest problems, God is still with us – and he is greater than any challenge we might face.”¹⁴ Expectancy. Optimism. Confidence. Why? Because God is greater than any challenge we might face. That’s why we have hope.

All of this sounds great, but ... What good is hope when you’ve lost your job and can’t find another one? What good is hope when your son hates you and you can’t see your grandchildren? What good is hope when the diagnosis is terminal? What good is hope when your prayers are not answered? What good is hope when there is no miracle? What good is hope when ...?

It’s easy to lose hope. If you’ve prayed and things are still the same, I’m so sorry. I’m so sorry if you’re hurting, perhaps confused, or feeling hopeless. What can I say to you? What I say to myself. The reality is that life is filled with disappointment and hurt, with pain and problems, with disease and death. As Jesus said, “In this world you will have tribulation.” I say to you what I say to myself, and I say it with empathy and compassion. Life is filled with pain and problems, but Jesus said, “Take courage, for I have overcome the world” (John 16:33, NAS).

Hope is possible because Jesus is the King of Kings, and the King of Kings promises to help us in this life and to get us to the next life. That’s why we have hope.

Here is the essence of hope.

Hope is ***trusting God*** – It’s confidence in the promises of God. Hope is not wishful thinking, but confident certainty that God will do what He has promised.

Hope is ***expecting good*** – It’s longing for something better. It expects and anticipates the goodness of God.

Hope is ***enduring struggle*** – We hope when we’re desperate, and when life is hard. Yet somehow, hope helps us endure the struggle.

Hope is ***waiting patiently*** – So many times the Bible tells us to “wait on the Lord.”¹⁵ And we wait in hope.

And hope is ***rejoicing now*** – Hope is joy in advance. It’s acting as if “it” has already happened. That’s why Romans 12:12 says, “Rejoice in hope.”

CONCLUSION

Again, the lyrics of the hymn ask the question all humanity asks. ***“What is our hope in life and death?” The resounding answer is “Christ alone!” Our hope in life and death is Christ alone! Hope is possible because Jesus is the King of Kings, and the King of Kings promises to help us in this life and to get us to the next life. That’s why we have hope.***

NOTES

¹ “Christ Our Hope in Life and Death,” word and music written by Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Jordan Kauflin, Matt Merker, Matt Papa, Getty Music Publishing, 2020.

² David Jeremiah, *Hope – An Anchor for Life* (San Diego, CA: Turning Point for God, 2016), page 4.

³ Romans 15:13.

⁴ We are to endure in our faith, hold on to our convictions, and live in purity and obedience, “until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ ... who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and the Lord of lords” (1 Timothy 6:14-15).

⁵ “Hallelujah” means “praise yah,” short for “praise Yahweh.” Some translations of the Old Testament insert “praise the Lord.” As an example of use in the Old Testament see Psalm 113:1. The Greek word is ἀλληλουϊά (*hallelujah*).

⁶ Here is a statue of Handel in Westminster Abbey. Also the original sheet music of the “Messiah” in Handel’s one handwriting.



⁷ See Isaiah 63:3, and comments by Anne Graham Lotz, *The Vision of His Glory* (Dallas, TX: Word Publishing, 1996, 1997), page 193.

⁸ When Jesus was arrested, the Roman governor Pilate asked Him, “Are you a king?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world, but yes, I am a king. For this I have been born and come into the world, to bear witness to the truth” (John 18:33-37, paraphrase).

⁹ See John 1:3, Hebrews 1:2.

¹⁰ In his first letter to Timothy, Paul included the lyrics of this first century hymn. “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever” (1 Timothy 1:17, NIV).

¹¹ See Daniel 4:35, Acts 17:28.

¹² See John 1:29.

¹³ Jesus “was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1:4, NAS).

¹⁴ Lee Strobel, *The Case for Faith* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan), page 2.

¹⁵ See these verses on waiting on the Lord – Psalm 27:14, 33:20-22, 37:7, 62:5, 130:5, Lamentations 3:25.