



There's a quote attributed to a 4th century Christian named Augustine. It goes like this: **"If you believe what you like in the Gospel, and reject what you don't like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself."** Modifications of this quote have been stated by many others throughout the years, but the idea is that if you feel like you can accept certain things in the Bible while rejecting others, then are you really accepting God and his truth? No. If you do that, you're the one who is the decider of what is true or false.

I bring this idea out here today because we've been going through a series on God's glory being displayed in mercy through judgment. Remember what God says is his glory in Exodus 34? **"The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.'"**¹

Mercy and judgment are essential, not because we say so or because we think it makes the most sense, but because God has revealed this to be the case – and if we have been saved by God, we ought to want to know God in all his glory. So, as we move into today's text, this truth remains. Especially when people talk about Jesus, I think they diminish the judgment and highlight mercy, which is understandable in some ways because mercy triumphs over judgment. However, this does not mean that Jesus never judges. This morning, I want us to gaze at Revelation 19 and see how John, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, describes Jesus. The words and phrases used here reveal Jesus as being both the merciful Savior who saves sinners and the Just Judge who will condemn sinners. The main idea of the sermon today is **The names of Jesus, at his second coming, display both his mercy and judgment.**

With this in mind, let's turn to Revelation 19:11-16 if you haven't already and read the entire passage again together: ¹¹Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹²His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. ²

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ex 34:6–7.

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Re 19:11–16.

The glory of Jesus will be on display when he comes. Here is what is referred to as the Battle of Armageddon. It's a great battle yet to come when Jesus returns with all whom he has saved, and then he brings in his Kingdom! This is the final battle where all who don't trust Jesus will rebelliously seek to fight against him. As the apostle John describe this battle, he seeks to describe Jesus so we understand the gloriousness of Jesus. He shares with us four names of Jesus. Each name is intended to show us an aspect of Jesus' glory. Each of these phrases, like I said earlier, speak to Jesus' mercy and his justice. So, with this sermon today, I'm simply going to emphasize each name given to him – and we'll see the full picture of Jesus (not just mercy and not just judgment) because if we only accept the version of Jesus we "like," then it's not Jesus we worship, it's us! I hope that would never be the case for us.

Jesus: Faithful and True (v. 11)

If I said to you that Jesus is faithful and true, what Bible verses would come to your mind? One that comes to my mind is 1 John 1:9: "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins...." Faithful and just, and by the way, his justice is based in truth. What a joyous verse for anyone in this room today. If we agree with God about our sinfulness and pursuit of sin that it is truly what he says it is, he is faithful and just to forgive us of those sins. He will cleanse us completely of the sin that is in our lives. I love this verse for so many reasons, and I clearly see the mercy of God in that verse. The Faithful and True One chooses to be faithful and just in forgiving me and cleansing me from all unrighteousness. As you read 1 John, you realize that God's goal is to make us like him. He has a commitment to his children to cause his children to "look" like him (righteous). And this is glorious because God is the supreme glory. This is mercy, right? We love the idea of his faithfulness and truth, right?

Now, what does this have to do with Revelation 19? Well, like a coin, let's flip to see the other side of what this phrase means by looking here at Revelation 19. Like with 1 John 1, in the context of chapter 19, we find that Jesus is faithful to God's righteousness. We know that because of the next phrase: "in righteousness he judges and makes war."

In faithfulness, he forgives, and in faithfulness he judges and makes war. These are two very different things, aren't they? What we clearly see is that Jesus' future return is very different from his first coming. When he first came, he came in lowest position, and no one perceived him to be one in power. But, when Jesus comes again, there will be no doubt who he is, and because he is faithful and true to righteousness, he must come back in power. This text indicates a great war that ends in everlasting peace. When I think of this battle, I'm reminded of the scene in the Lord of the Rings movie, *The Two Towers*. There's this huge battle taking place. All hope seems to be lost, and then light shines down and one character named Gandalf comes running in on the white horse. Then you *know* the people will be saved. It's such a glorious scene. But this scene of Revelation 19 far exceeds the glory! Here are people who have suffered in this life. They have been hurt, tired and afflicted, and Jesus comes to put to death all unrighteousness from the earth!

What is Jesus doing here? Well, not only is he faithful to forgive and cleanse us who have trusted him, but he's faithful to cleanse creation so that we can live in a world of perfect peace! In other words, since Jesus is faithful and true, he will protect his children and protect his Kingdom. He will not allow unrighteousness and treason to continue indefinitely. For those who are his followers, we should take great comfort in this! Why do I say that? Because think about the world we live in today? We read about the continued war between Russia and Ukraine. We read about the rise of sex trafficking (or trafficking in general). We see what things people are wanting to make laws even in our own country, which destroy life instead of support and help life. We see the stock market continue to go downward. Pick the problem, the world is full of them. And injustice abounds. But Christian, we have hope. Our anchor is not

in this world. Our rest is in the Lord Jesus Christ who reigns today and is coming again to remove all injustice! Praise his name, amen? To wipe out injustice and bring peace is why Jesus is coming.

And what we see is that the Faithful and True comes on a white horse. A white horse is actually a symbol of victory. Now, imagine with me Jesus' return to the earth. On that day, Revelation reveals that the people on the earth at the time are living in sin and Jesus appears on a white horse to show them that they have no power to defeat him. Without one stroke of a sword or shot of a gun, Jesus has won. This is a powerful scene! Jesus doesn't come in fear. Jesus doesn't come as a poor man. He comes as the God-Man Warrior to take over the world that's been ravaged by sin. This begins the scene of the war. The Faithful and True is coming. The one who forgives sinners also is just in bringing war to the sinners who refuse to submit to him and his reign. Let's move on in John's description to see the next name given to Jesus:

Jesus and a name no creation knows (v. 12)

This is probably the most beautiful terms to me in all the names. Even though I can't read the name or will probably ever understand it, what that name signifies is that Jesus is so great that I'll never fully understand him. This is a name that Jesus possesses that reveals that he is eternally and infinitely beautiful. This name shows me that for all eternity, I will be uncovering more of the riches of the beauty of Christ. This name reveals to me that believers will enjoy and savor Jesus as long as they know him. This name reveals that he is wonderful beyond our comprehension and it fuels us to be his followers. I hope you see the merciful glory that's revealed in this name. Jesus himself prayed in John 17 that eternal life is knowing God and the one he sent. "A name no creation knows" speaks to that reality.

At the same time, this name speaks to judgment. Verse 12 describes Jesus: His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems. . .³ As we read this, we see that Jesus' unknown-to-creation name is displayed in two different ways: 1) One way is that he has a crown unlike the world has ever seen! Jesus truly is the King of kings. No one comes close to the perfection of his reign and glory. 2) The other way his glory is seen is through his eyes being like a flame of fire! When I was a child, I remember a time when I lied to my parents. I also remember when I was caught. My mom confronted me, and my dad was a little way off, and when I said I had lied, it was as if I could feel my dad's stare boring into the inner recesses of my soul! It was like his eyes were as a flaming fire. But that's just one moment and that's just an earthly father's stare. What about the Faithful and True who has a name no creation knows because he's not creation. He's God. He sees everything about you, knows everything about you and will perfectly judge you and make all sin plain, bringing peace to the earth and removing all sin and sinners from it. His eyes truly are like a flame of fire. Can you imagine that piercing gaze? I'm grateful God has saved me because even just one gaze of judgment from Christ terrifies me.

You see, in this moment at Jesus' return, he's going to inflict physical and eternal punishment on the world that rejects him. There is no possible hope for them to win. Look at the way John describes the world in verse 19: I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.⁴ Jesus comes to judge the world and sees a world that is totally against him. These people are so deceived that they will follow in Satan's plan and the reality is that their doom is sure! Listen, if you really don't trust in Jesus today, I pray you'd turn to Jesus. He's the great King of kings and he's coming to reign over the earth and will rid his righteous kingdom of sin and sinners! Repent so that you not only will be spared, but repent because there is joy forever in the arms of God. Why reject God and embrace death? Why harden your heart towards him

³ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Re 19:11–12.

⁴ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Re 19:19.

like the people on the earth will someday when they war against him? I pray you wouldn't be judged by his flaming eyes. Turn to God for forgiveness and find life.

And you know what? I know you'd have forgiveness if you turned to him because when he came the first time, he came to die. What other religion reveals a God who suffers to give creation eternal life? No other one. Yet Jesus came, and on the cross he didn't only suffer like the rest of us. He experienced the punishment sinners deserved in the place of sinners so that if you turn from your sinfulness and go to Jesus for forgiveness, he forgives you and reconciles you to God so that you have eternal hope! Oh, why reject Jesus? Why try to build your own kingdom and reject his? Confess him and find life!

So far, we have seen two names. Now, let's go to the third:

Jesus: The Word of God

This name is only mentioned by John, and it's so powerful in understanding the mercy and judgment of Jesus. According to John, Jesus is the Word of God. In verse 15 of this chapter, we find that there's a sharp sword that comes out of Jesus' mouth. And, that is signifying the power of the Word to cut and pierce unrighteousness. In Hebrews, we find the power of the written word of God in similar ways that it is a sword that pierces to the joints and marrow of the soul!

When you hear "Jesus is the Word," what passage do you think of? Most people who know the Bible, will probably say John 1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.⁵ John goes on to describe that the Word is also God. The Word also is light. He takes away the darkness of our souls and brings in the life of God's light. John is writing somewhat like Genesis 1. In Genesis 1, we have the description of the creation of this world. God spoke and life came into being! Now, when Jesus came to this earth, it's like God speaking again. Jesus is the Word who came in and Jesus is God. He is the Light that brings life! He takes away the darkness of sin. He takes away the darkness of our souls with his light. Now, let me ask you: is this mercy? Yes! As you move further in John 1 and go to verse 14, you read, "**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**"⁶ The Word lived in this world and revealed God's glory: grace and truth; mercy and judgment.

Has God's written Word pierced your heart to turn to the living Word and commune with him? Has he taken away the darkness of your soul and shown you God's light? Oh, I pray he has! I pray the Word has made you a part of the new creation! The Word of God is full of mercy. And, as we see in John 1, he's full of truth. There's judgment as well from the Word.

Jesus, as the Personal Word of God, will never be content with a creation that is still affected by sin. He will give life to those who seek him, but he will, in the end, righteously judge those who refuse to trust him. Verse 13 says that he was clothed in a robe dipped with blood. What is this blood? Well, it's the blood of the people who die by judgment. Look at verse 15: From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.⁷ What happens if you tread a winepress? I doubt most of us (if any) have ever treaded grapes, but if you have, you stomp down on them and then what happens? Juice comes out. This is the idea John is giving. Jesus speaks and treads the winepress. The reason his robe is dipped in blood is because the blood is from all those who refused to submit themselves to the

⁵ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 1:1.

⁶ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 1:14.

⁷ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Re 19:15.

Lord and to righteousness. Does this not cause fear to even think about? This gives an illustration of Psalm 2's words when David says, "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you perish in the way." Again, to kiss the Son means to turn to him and submit yourself to him and his life. What happens if you reject Life? Death. Jesus, like with the original creation, speaks. But instead of giving life here, he gives death.

If this description angers you or tempts you to reject Jesus, please consider that the choices are only Life and Death. You cannot reject the King of all and expect to have life. In addition, consider that if you are a sinner, you wouldn't really know how sinful your sins are unless God showed you. To add to this, the Scriptures say that God is waiting for the return of Jesus because he's patient, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But, if you're sitting here today upset with God, consider this: instead of you repenting, you are blaming God of not being kind - the very God who is being kind to you right now and calling you to find life and forgiveness in him.

Now, there's something else I want to add about the gloriousness of the name "Word of God." Let's read verse 14: And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.⁸ Do you notice something about this war. If you have a picture of it in your mind, you can see Jesus coming on a white horse in the sky. You can see the kings and nations on the earth, and then behind Jesus are all those who trusted him on white horses, too! That means we're victorious. But question: do we speak, and a sword comes out of our mouths? Do we tread God's winepress? No. Jesus is doing the battle solely on his own. We simply get to be on-lookers riding our horses, watching his glorious power! A name that no creation knows reveals the beauty, splendor and majesty of our God.

Jesus is coming to bring the perfect, righteous Kingdom, cleansing this creation from all sin and unrighteousness. As a result, he protects all he's saved from any future injustice from any sinners. There will be no sinners and no sin in God's Kingdom! As a result of all of this, it's no wonder, John gives us the final names:

Jesus: King of kings and Lord of lords. Verse 16 says, "On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords."⁹ I'm reminded of Philippians 2 that speaks of Jesus humbling himself to the point of death on the cross. And as a result, God has raised him up so that someday, at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow and tongue confess he is Lord! Someday, after the Lord judges everyone, the Bible says every mouth will be stopped. No one will argue that he was unjust.

He is King of kings. None of the nations could win against him. This is his creation. He is Lord of lords. Meaning, he's the Master of all masters. That's an interesting way of putting it, isn't it? We tend to recoil at the word "master" because enslavement is so bad, right? Yes, absolutely! But did you know that enslavement is so bad because there's only One who is worthy to be a Master? God himself. When you are united with God, you have freedom. When you let money, fame, approval of people, or any other thing in this world master you, it enslaves you and takes you down. That's what we see in this final picture. All these people on the earth worshipped themselves and other things. What did it bring them? Death. But what does the Lord of lords bring? He brings peace and victory for all who trust him.

Do you see Jesus' glory of mercy and judgment in this Battle of Armageddon? But not only do you see it, have you trusted and embraced Jesus as your Lord and Savior? **The names of Jesus, at his second coming, display both his mercy and judgment. I pray we see each other in the crowd of followers on a white horse following him. Do you look forward to being with him? "Kiss" the Son. Blessed are those who take refuge in him.**

⁸ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Re 19:14.

⁹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Re 19:16.