

# WORD OF GOD

For our communion services we pause from our 'regular' series of Bible studies and present a devotion on a name or title of our Lord, Jesus Christ. There are more than seven hundred such names or titles. To narrow it down we have arbitrarily used the English alphabet. We take each letter of our alphabet and find a name or title of our Lord.

Our letter this month, the letter "W", will probably be our last. X, Y, & Z don't lend themselves to titles of Jesus! More than that, the 'W' we've chosen pretty much sums-up every one of the other names and titles. It is the title for Jesus found in His description at His Second Coming as **the Word of God**:

**Revelation 19:11** Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

**Revelation 19:12** His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

**Revelation 19:13** He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called **The Word of God**.

To set the context, look back at verse one for a moment:

**Revelation 19:1** After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power *belong* to the Lord our God!

**After these things** looks back over the first eighteen chapters of this remarkable book of future history:

1. **After** the vision of the risen Lord Jesus in chapter one...
2. **After** the revealing of the church age in chapters two and three...
3. **After** the rapture and reward of the church in chapters four and five...
4. **After** the wrath of the seven year Great Tribulation on earth in chapters six through eighteen...

***Jesus Christ will come!***

How will He come?

Revelation 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened...

We've seen Heaven open before in the New Testament:

1. The heavens opened at Jesus' baptism and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him as the Father said, **This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**
2. When Stephen was martyred he saw the heavens opened and Jesus standing there at the right hand of God.
3. John saw heaven opened and was transported there to receive the visions of this book.

The heavens opened to show us Jesus was God's chosen servant. He was the God-man, God come in human flesh, to act as our substitute and sacrifice Himself for our sins.

Then they open to show us His victory and to establish that we are now men of God. Stephen represents all believers who continue the work Jesus began.

Then the heavens open to receive all the believers of the Church age as we are either resurrected or raptured.

Then it opens so the one who came and rose can come again. We will come with Him.

Revelation 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse...

In the days of His ministry Jesus only rode once – a foal of a donkey as He entered Jerusalem. He will exchange it for a mighty steed – even as He exchanged His humiliation for exaltation.

Revelation 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called **Faithful** and True...

Jesus was **faithful** in His first coming. He fulfilled His mission. He substituted Himself for the human race that whosoever believes in Him would be saved.

He will be **faithful** to come a second time to complete His mission.

Jesus was **true** in His first coming. He could be measured by the Scriptures and it could be shown how He and only He fulfilled their promises.

He will be **true** in His second coming – true to His own promises of the new covenant that the Jews did not yet have but which we hold in our Bibles.

**Revelation 19:11** Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

Jesus cannot be at peace with sin. When He returns it will be at the height of mankind's rebellion, at the end of the Great Tribulation, when all hope is lost but for Him.

**Revelation 19:12** His eyes *were* like a flame of fire...

The description shows the fierceness of His wrath against sin. None will be hidden from Him.

**Revelation 19:12** His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns...

In the ancient world the accumulation of **crowns** showed the accumulation of victory and dominion. Jesus comes with all power and authority having conquered many foes.

Among the vanquished are sin and death. Those two would be enough for me! But the text indicates many more – each representing some victory.

Earlier in the Revelation there is a scene in Heaven where the Church tosses its crowns at the feet of Jesus. You, and your rewards, are also His crowns at His return!

**Revelation 19:12** His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

Jesus has an unknowable name. It's fantastic to know that there will always remain a sense of mystery and romance in your relationship with Him.

**Revelation 19:13** He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood...

This is not a reference to His own blood, shed on the cross. This is the blood of His enemies.

It's already dipped in blood, on His approach to this battle. Jesus is a veteran warrior. This won't be His first battle. He is not a novice. There is no doubt as to His skill and ability to conquer.

**Revelation 19:13** He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

**Word of God** is one of the preeminent titles of our Lord. John opened his Gospel by identifying Jesus as the One who **in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by Him. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.**

J. A. Seiss writes,

He is the Word of God... the true and only expression of the Godhead, as the great subject and substance of the written Word, as the accomplishment and fulfiller of the written Word, and the very expression and revelation of the Father, the same as words express the thoughts of the heart.

The writer to the Hebrew Christians said this about Jesus and the Word:

**Hebrews 1:1** God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

**Hebrews 1:2** has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

God **spoke** in the past, but He has now **spoken to us by His Son**. Jesus is not just another way of God revealing Himself to human beings. The sentence is constructed to show that every previous way God has used to reveal Himself has its completion in Him.

Previously God spoke **at various times**. It means *piecemeal* or *progressively*.

Previously God spoke **in various ways**. If you look in the Old Testament you'll find God using narrative... history... poetry... psalms... law... prophecy... allegory... metaphor... typology... figures... dreams... parables... symbols. You'll find just about every kind of communication you can think of.

Previously God spoke these ways **to the fathers by the prophets**. The **fathers** are our ancestors – both Jews and Gentiles. While God's revelation of Himself was to the Jews, it was to be through them to the whole world. The **prophets** would include all those who spoke forth the inspired Word of God.

What did they speak about? **Mostly about God's Son coming into the world as its Savior and Redeemer!**

Jesus is the subject of the Bible. Every other subject is subordinate to Him. A little later in Hebrews you read,

**Hebrews 10:7** THEN I SAID, 'BEHOLD, I HAVE COME - IN THE VOLUME OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME - TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.' "

The phrase **volume of the book** literally refers to the knob on the end of the roller of the manuscripts of Scripture. Where we say *from cover-to-cover*, the Jews would say *in the knobs!* It's a poetic way of saying that everything contained on the parchments held between those rollers is a volume written about a single subject - Jesus.

From Genesis to Malachi the coming Savior is the theme. There is an episode in the gospel of Luke that shows this. Jesus had been crucified. He had risen from the dead, but His disciples did not know He was alive. Two of them were returning from Jerusalem on the road to Emmaus when Jesus drew near and began walking with them. They didn't recognize Him. He pretended not to know that they were talking about His crucifixion and the empty tomb. They couldn't put it all together: How could Jesus be the Messiah? Why did He die a criminal's death on the Cross? Where was His body? Where was the promise of the kingdom of heaven on earth?

Finally Jesus said to them,

Luke 24:25 KJV "...O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

Luke 24:26 KJV Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

Luke 24:27 KJV And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."

**Moses and all the prophets** is a summary for the entire Old Testament. The volume of the book, the law and the prophets, the poetry and the psalms... Was to prepare mankind for the coming of God's Son. Just as children might be taught letters, then words, then sentences – God taught mankind about their coming Savior in piecemeal, progressive fashion.

### **Then He came:**

**Hebrews 1:2** has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son...

The **last days** means *at the end of these days of progressive revelation*. It is also a distinctly Jewish phrase. The **last days** were the days in which the Messiah would come. The writer, then, is saying, "In these promised Last Days Messiah **has come** and **has spoken**; He Himself is the final revelation of God."

The Bible is a fantastic library of sixty-six books. But we must approach it properly. I recently came across this description of the Bible library by G. Campbell Morgan:

The Bible is very remarkable in many ways. First, it is not a scientific textbook. The man who goes to the Bible for a scientific teaching is going to a library that does not contain it. I am not saying the Bible is unscientific; but it is not a scientific textbook. Nevertheless it has a cosmic conception and declaration, beyond which science has never been able to go, and which true science has never desired to contradict.

Think about that for just a moment. Morgan was not saying that a discussion of something like creation versus evolution is unscriptural. He was reminding us that the Bible is much bigger than, much larger than, that discussion. He was reminding us that it speaks with accuracy on all subjects only to reveal its main subject, Jesus.

Continuing, Morgan writes:

The Bible does not give us a systematized theology, but it presents a Person, in Whom we find the final key to theology in all its departments. The highways of the Old Testament all move in majestic dignity to that Person. All the highways of the New Testament proceed from Him. In the Person of the Man of the Bible, *the Man of the Bible*, we have the key to theological interpretation.

It is our particular danger to want to reduce the Bible and its various teachings to a system we can totally understand. In doing so we risk losing sight of its subject!

Cover-to-cover... In the knobs... Jesus is its subject. He is the Word of God, expressing everything there is to know about God.

