

I would encourage you to go to Amazon and pick up a copy of “**Liberating the Book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message.**” This book is intended to help us all know what the Spirit said and how He said it. This book is focused not on interpreting the book of **Revelation**, that is what this podcast is for, but on accurately representing the book of **Revelation** in the manner in which the Spirit originally spoke it to John. It is available in all formats: hardback, paperback, e-book format, and as an *audible*.

In our last podcast we saw the Armies of Heaven that come with Jesus on His campaign of victory over all who oppose Him. Both the angels and the bride (His wife) come with Him, and being clothed in fine linen, white and clean, they are displaying the righteousness of Jesus as they join Him in His victory parade. And now Jesus is prepared for war.

EP164 Revelation 19 verses 15-16

Prepared for War

Revelation 19:15-16

From His mouth chooses to **now** come a sharp sword, so that with it He **may** strike down the nations, and He will in the **future** rule them with a rod of iron; and He **now** treads the winepress of wine of the *wrath the furious anger* of God the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh, He **now** has a name caused to having been written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

The first thing that should draw our attention to this epic scene is that it is primarily rendered in the *present* tense. Only once is the *future* tense used, which describes His future reign over the nations, which occurs after He puts down the Beast and the False Prophet in judgment and then exiles Satan to the Abyss for one thousand years. Therefore, beyond describing the events at His Second Coming, this passage also describes the relationship Jesus has, even now, with the nations of the earth.

Let's go through each element of this passage, the sword, the rod of iron, the wine press, the wine of the wrath, the furious anger of God, and the name written on His robe and thigh.

The Sharp Sword

*“From His mouth chooses to **now** come a sharp sword, so that with it He **may** strike down the nations...”*
This sword is not just any ordinary sword, like one that the Romans would carry, which in the Greek is called a “*machaira*,” which was anywhere from 24-33 inches. Being relatively short, the “*machaira*” was used for up close and personal battles. The “*machaira*” was the type of sword which the rider of the red horse was given to take peace from the earth. If you remember, the red horse was released at the opening of the second seal.¹

But the sharp sword which chooses to now come out of the Lord's mouth is altogether different. The

¹ **Revelation 6:3-4**

Greek refers to an exceptionally large sword, which in Greek is called a “*rhomphaia*.” A “*rhomphaia*” was upwards of 57 inches, twice the size of a typical Roman sword.

When we were first introduced to the resurrected Jesus, we were told that out of His mouth came this sharp two-edged sword. This imagery was used again in the letter to the church at Pergamum.²

This image of a large sharp sword signifies the deadly and sharp nature of the truth, as His word is truth.³ His word can dissect the truth from a lie, dividing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Thus, **He cannot be deceived or misled**, for there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare before Him.⁴ He is able to penetrate the deepest of delusions with the truth. And since this is a choice that He makes to have this sword to **now** be coming from His mouth, this is a constant part of His nature and how He chooses to deal with mankind.

And being a sharp sword (two-edged) ensures that His word goes forth and **ALWAYS** accomplishes the task or purposes for which it was sent; it always succeeds.⁵

Since a “*rhomphaia*” was upwards of 57 inches, twice the size of a typical Roman sword, one could get more leverage and therefore power into a swing of this long sword. This imagery indicates that the power of Jesus’ word is unimaginable. We were given a glimpse of its power the night Jesus was arrested. The Roman troops came and asked for Jesus of Nazareth, and He said, “*I AM He*,” and they all fell to the ground?⁶ His spoken word literally floored them. That is just a little foreshadow of the power that comes from His spoken word. Besides, if He can speak into existence all of creation, we can be sure that He is just as capable of speaking judgment and destruction on those who have rejected Him.⁷

The **Codex** gives us a prophetic picture of His speaking judgment with His sword and massive physical destruction of men and spiritual destruction of the hosts of heaven. In the book of **Isaiah**, we are given a picture of what happens when He comes to judge the nations, and a specifically vivid depiction of what He does to the people of Edom, who historically resided in the territory of what we know as the nation of Jordan.

Isaiah 34:1-10

Draw near, O nations, to hear; and listen, O peoples! Let the earth and all it contains hear, and the world and all that springs from it. For **Yahweh’s** indignation is against all the nations, and His wrath against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to slaughter. So, their slain will be thrown out, and their corpses will give off their stench, and the mountains will be drenched with their blood. And all the host of heaven will wear away, and the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; all their hosts will also wither away as a leaf withers from the vine, or as one withers from the fig tree.

² See **Revelation 1:16, 2:12, 16**

³ **Psalm 119:160; John 17:17**

⁴ See **Hebrews 4:12-13**

⁵ See **Isaiah 55:11**

⁶ See **John 18:4-6**

⁷ **Genesis 1...God said, let there be...**

For My sword is satiated in heaven, behold it shall descend for judgment upon Edom and upon the people whom I have devoted to destruction. The sword of **Yahweh** is filled with blood, it is sated with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams. For **Yahweh** has a sacrifice in Bozrah and a great slaughter in the land of Edom. Wild oxen will also fall with them and young bulls with strong ones; thus, their land will be soaked with blood, and their dust become greasy with fat.

For **Yahweh** has a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion. Its streams will be turned into pitch, and its loose earth into brimstone, and its land will become burning pitch. It will not be quenched night or day; its smoke will go up forever. From generation to generation, it will be desolate; none will pass through it forever and ever.

The imagery is clear. There will be no escaping the judgment which proceeds from the mouth of Jesus Christ as He will be victorious over mankind and the hosts of heaven who defy Him and betray the roles which He gave them to fulfill amongst the nations. No foe will stand in his way. His words are just and true and they are righteous altogether; therefore, they will smite all upon whom they fall.

A Rod of Iron

“... and He will in the **future** rule them with a rod of iron ...” This is the only part of this passage that is rendered in the *future* tense and therefore points us definitively to what will be.

The Greek word translated as “rule” literally means to tend or to **shepherd**; thus, this rod of iron is a picture of a shepherd’s rod. But being made of iron, the imagery communicates that His rule is unbreakable and unforgiving, iron simply does not bend. And based on the **Codex**, this rod of iron has multifaceted purposes, all depending on if a person is appointed to death or life. With one group He will use this rod to smite them and with another He will use this rod to guide them.

Appointed to Death

This rod of iron, this unbending rod, will be used to break those who are appointed for death in this winepress of the wine of the fierce wrath of God. “He shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked”.⁸ It is also a picture of prophetic fulfillment regarding a promise the Father made to the Son, “Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”⁹ This is a dreadful image of passionate violence, and since His rod is made of iron (it’s unbreakable), it will not fail in its purposes, just like His word.

Appointed to Life

In contrast, for the Righteous who remain on the earth, this image represents a promise that Jesus will shepherd or tend to the nations. Although, it will be done with an unbending rod of iron, which means He will have His way. Jesus described this process.

⁸ *Isaiah 11:3*

⁹ *Psalms 2:8-9*

Matthew 24:29-31

Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will in the **future** be caused to be darkened, and the moon will not in the **future** give its light, and the stars will in the **future**, by choice, fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will in the **future** be caused to be shaken.

Then in the **future** it will be caused to appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will in the **future**, by choice, mourn, and they will in the **future**, by choice, see the Son of Man choosing to **now** be coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will in the **future** send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will in the **future** gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Like a shepherd, He will send His angels to gather those who survive the tribulation, and He will sit to judge them.

Joel 3:12-16

Let the nations stir themselves up and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow, for their evil is great. Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of **Yahweh** is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. **Yahweh** roars from Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth quake. But **Yahweh** is a refuge to his people, a stronghold to the people of Israel.

This passage captures the duality between His rod breaking the backs of His enemies and His rod shepherding His people to safety. And the amazing thing is that on that day, many will be joined to Him, and they will let Him be their shepherd.

Zechariah 2:10-11

Sing for joy and be glad, O daughter of Zion; for behold I am coming, and I will dwell in your midst," declares **Yahweh**. Many nations will join themselves to **Yahweh** in that day and will become My people.

Micah 4:1-7

And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of **Yahweh** will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, **and the peoples will stream to it**. Many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of **Yahweh** and to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths." For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of **Yahweh** from Jerusalem.

And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up

sword against nation, and never again will they train for war. Each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid, for the mouth of **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of hosts) has spoken. Though all the peoples walk each in the name of his god, as for us, we will walk in the name of **Yahweh** our God forever and ever.

In that day, declares **Yahweh**, I will assemble the lame and gather the outcasts, even those whom I have afflicted. I will make the lame a remnant and the outcasts a strong nation, and **Yahweh** will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on and forever.

Ultimately, Jesus' return is about redemption. His rod crushes the wicked and removes the cancer from this earth. Yet, at the same time, His rod shepherds those appointed to life to safety and redeems their lives. In fact, this is where the Wife of Christ come into the storyline as He will appoint those who now and continually hold to the testimony of Jesus to shepherd the survivors along with Him; thereby, fulfilling the promise He made to the church at Thyatira to give them authority over the nations.¹⁰

There is a passage in the **Codex** that covers much of this judgment and redemption which clearly states that He will appoint responsible shepherds to care for the nations.

Jeremiah 23:2-8

Therefore, this is what **Yahweh**, the God of Israel, says to these shepherds: "Instead of caring for my flock and leading them to safety, you have deserted them and driven them to destruction. Now I will pour out judgment on you for the evil you have done to them.

But I will gather together the remnant of my flock from the countries where I have driven them. I will bring them back to their own sheepfold, and they will be fruitful and increase in number. **Then I will appoint responsible shepherds who will care for them, and they will never be afraid again.** Not a single one will be lost or missing. I, **Yahweh** have spoken!

For the time is coming, says **Yahweh**, "when I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David's line. He will be a King who rules with wisdom. He will do what is just and right throughout the land. And this will be his name: '**Yahweh Tsidkenu**' (**Yahweh** Our Righteousness).¹¹ In that day Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety.

In that day, says **Yahweh**, when people are taking an oath, they will no longer say, 'As surely as **Yahweh** lives, who rescued the people of Israel from the land of Egypt.' Instead, they will say, 'As surely as **Yahweh** lives, who brought the people of Israel back to their own land from the land of the north and from all the countries to which he had exiled them.' Then they will live in their own land."

From the same rod of iron will come both death and life. And we will discover, however, that those who are appointed to life will remain on the earth and be shepherded by the bondservants of God for a period of 1,000 years (a millennium), after which God will destroy the earth completely. But more on that

¹⁰ See **Revelation 2:26-28**

¹¹ **Yahweh Tsidkenu**

later.



The Wine Press

“... and He **now** treads the winepress of wine of the wrath the furious anger of God the Almighty.” Typically, this passage is taught as entirely apocalyptic, applying only to the activities associated with the **End Times**, or specifically to Jesus’ Second Coming. And while it has that application, it goes beyond just an **End Times** event. This speaks of what **now** is and will continue to be in the **now** of every generation. The imagery here is potent: *He now treads the winepress of wine of the wrath the furious anger of God the Almighty.*¹²

The winepress is a vat or trough where grapes are trod by

foot and smashed to separate the juice from the skin. But this winepress is curious in that it is the winepress of the wine of the wrath, the furious anger of God the Almighty.

In **Revelation 14:14-20** we were given another image of a winepress, but in this previous description, the winepress was referred to as “the great winepress of the **wrath** of God.” In that instance, the Greek word “*thumos*” was used, which we translate as “wrath.” This is the same word that is used when referring to the “seven bowls of wrath.” As we have learned, there is however another Greek word often translated as “wrath” and that is “*orge*.” This is essentially an over the top “*thumos*” on steroids. This sort of “furious anger” is that which is poured out to destroy those who are now destroying the earth, and it is poured out upon Babylon the Great.¹³

In our passage, when referring to the “winepress” both “*thumos*” and “*orge*” are used together, “the wrath, the furious anger of God the Almighty.” This could be captured in many ways, for instance, “the wrath, the fierce wrath,” or “the wrath of the terrible anger,” etc.

The Ignored: Wrath

Most of the Biblical translations say, “He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty,” or a close approximation to it. These translators fail to effectively capture the combination of “*thumos*” with “*orge*,” which tends to lessen the horrific nature of this picture. This is a place of not just

¹² There was no attribution as to who created this image, so ownership or permission of use is not included.

¹³ **Revelation 11:18, 16:19**

wrath, but added to His wrath is God's furious rage. It is a terrifying picture.

Please note that both "*thumos*" and "*orge*" are nouns, so it is not to be read as if "*ogre*" is an adjective modifier to explain or give color to "*thumos*." These are two separate expressions of God the Almighty, "wrath" and "furious anger."

The Ignored: Wine

Most of the Biblical translations also completely exclude the phrase "*of the wine*." Perhaps they felt it made the passage too difficult to understand and so they left it out altogether. It is mind-bending that anyone would choose to leave out words that the Spirit gave to John to write, difficult to understand or not.¹⁴

Very specifically, "*He now treads the winepress of wine of the wrath the furious anger of God the Almighty.*"

The picture does present a conceptual difficulty. Typically, one treads on grapes to squeeze out the juice to ferment to make wine. But in this picture, Jesus treads the winepress of wine, and the Greek is very specific that this is addressing wine that has been fermented, not grape juice. What is this communicating to us? What does the Spirit want us to discern?

There are three previous categorical instances in the book of ***Revelation*** which are connected to wine. In the first instance, when the 3rd Seal was broken, the rider on the black horse was commanded not to harm the oil and the wine. Both the oil and wine are used in that passage as metaphors for the Spirit of God poured out upon the Jews (the "oil") and the Gentile nations (the "wine").¹⁵

In the second instance, the image of "wine" is connected to the concoction of immorality and abomination that the Harlot (Mystery Babylon) mixed in her cup. She made all the nations (the ethnic groups, or generically, the Gentile nations) drink the wine of the *wrath* ("*thumos*") of her immorality.¹⁶

In the third instance, however, God refers to His own cup of wrath, a cup that is filled with both "*thumos*," wrath, and "*orge*," furious anger. Who drinks from this cup? Those who worship the Beast and his image or who receive the mark of the Beast or the number of His name on his forehead or hand. They shall drink the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured without mixture, without dilution, into the cup of His furious anger.¹⁷ In addition, we are told that God remembers the great city, Babylon the Great, aka the Harlot, to give her the cup of the wine of "*thumos*," wrath, of His "*orge*," furious anger.¹⁸

"He now treads the winepress of wine of the wrath the furious anger of God the Almighty."

Perhaps this picture of Him treading the winepress of wine is a consolidated picture of God bringing judgment, wrath and furious anger, on all the followers of the Beast and upon those who are ensnared by the Harlot and never obeyed His multiple commands to flee Babylon, flee the Harlot. This judgment therefore includes all those in the household of God who were born-again, but never made or exercised

¹⁴ The phrase "of the wine" is in the Greek manuscripts, including the Texus Receptus and the NA27.

¹⁵ ***Revelation 6:5-6***

¹⁶ ***Revelation 14:8, 17:2, 18:3***

¹⁷ ***Revelation 14:9-10***

¹⁸ ***Revelation 16:19***

that choice to become a little child of God, dependent upon God for all things all the time.¹⁹ The picture is terrifying as Jesus is stomping on the wine in the vat of His wrath and furious anger.

The **Codex** gives us a precursor of this sort of judgment where the people of God, His very own, are tread as in a winepress and it is brutal. This passage derives from the time when **Yahweh** sent Babylon to crush and dominate His people.

Lamentations 1:15-17

Yahweh has rejected all my strong men in my midst; He has called an appointed time against me to hangup {or weigh} my young men; **Yahweh** has *trodden as in a wine press* the virgin daughter of Judah.

For these things I weep; my eyes run down with water; because far from me is a comforter, one who restores my soul. My children are desolate because the enemy has prevailed. Zion stretches out her hands; there is no one to comfort her; **Yahweh** has commanded concerning Jacob that the ones round about him should be his adversaries; Jerusalem has become an unclean thing among them.

The point is that Jesus, the one **now** being called faithful and true, operating as this royal/kingly victor is even **now** judging and **now** waging war in righteousness, and is **now** stomping, trampling under foot, the wine in the wine press of the fierce ("*thumos*") wrath ("*ogre*") of God. The nations, the Gentiles, are being judged, and He will continue to judge until the time of His return.

Let's stop here and in our next podcast we will pick up with the name written on His robe and on His right thigh: KING of kings and LORD of lords.

I am glad you "tuned in" and have been "ready to listen."

¹⁹ See **Matthew 18:3, John 1:12-13**