

Then, the armies of heaven were following riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. There are a lot that is figurative here, but it seems to me there's something definite about Christ. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. That's a funny figure--a sharp sword coming out of your mouth but the only thing I would think it combines with is where Paul says then will be revealed that wicked one whom the Lord will destroy with the brightness of his coming and the breath of his mouth. It would seem to me to tie with that.

The sharp sword with which to strike down the nations and rule them with a rod of iron. I don't see how that can be a picture of the gospel going out into all the world. He treads the winepress of the fury of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. That certainly must be Christ. "And I saw an angel standing in the sun who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come gather together for the great supper of God . . . Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. . . . The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse . . ." It seems to me that must be a picture of the second coming of Christ. Putting down everything that opposes Him.

There are those who would say, This is a picture of the gospel going forth and winning the world. As one writer said, The emphasis is that the whole world is to be converted. There will not be one left that is not converted. Because the universality is what is described here. Well, it seems to me that's carrying figurative language pretty far. There's a lot of figurative language in it but it seems to me it must be a picture of the return of Christ.

Then there's ch. 20. Does Revelation have a series of pictures? Is there a continuous movement or is there a series of pictures? A series of pictures which might overlap? Well I certainly would not be dogmatic. But as to whether Rev. 20 follows something in Rev. 19, or is something separate from it, it would seem to me that in Rev. 20 we have a picture of the devil being bound 1000 years. He threw him into the Abyss and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations any more . . ."

In the end of the previous ch. it refers (v.20) to the beast being captured and with him the false prophet, and it says the two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. Then in ch. 20:7 it speaks of when the 1000 years are over and Satan is released from his prison, and will go forth to deceive the nations on the four corners of the earth . . . and v. 10, the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown." I think the KJV says where the beast and false prophet are. But this seems to tie it up with the previous chapter--whether there are recapitulations, etc. there wouldn't be that in ch. 20 as opposed to ch. 19. Ch. 20 would seem definitely to follow ch. 19.