

Article of the Month  
January, 2022

## ***Riding a White Cloud!***

Revelation gets into some very complicated prophetic areas. And, at least for now, we will avoid those complications except to draw on one of Revelation's verses to comfort all who can hear.

In Revelation 14:14, we read:

And I looked, and Behold! -- a white cloud; and  
sitting on the cloud was one like a Son of Man...

The context is about our day, but we will not get into any of the context. We will focus just on the words above.

Revelation is a book of symbolisms. Most of its words represent something other than what they say. Once we familiarize ourselves with its consistent symbolisms, the text opens up with wonderful meaning. In this case the words WHITE, CLOUD, and SITTING ON are all of extreme importance in helping us to be less fretful about the events happening all around us in this world. Even BEHOLD and SON OF MAN are words with important implications.

"Behold" seems like such an innocent word. But in the entire Bible it is a word to draw special attention to a matter. It is as if the presenter is saying, "Don't just read this! Stop and think about it. Probe beneath the surface if you want a special blessing out of it!" And, indeed, in this verse, we can gain extraordinary comfort when we carefully and deeply consider and accept these words.

"CLOUD" in Scripture has several symbolic meanings -- all related. We know that clouds obscure things. Thus, one of its symbolisms is "lack of clarity." Clouds also are frequently the forerunners and causes of storms. Therefore, one of the symbolic meanings intended for "clouds" in the Bible is "trouble." In the Revelation 14 text, both of these symbolisms are present. We, today, live in a time when we have more and more uncertainty (lack of clarity -- "cloudiness") regarding the things happening on the earth. Likewise, the ever-increasing social, political, economic, and religious upheavals all amount to one thing: TROUBLE!

But this cloud is WHITE. White in Scripture has the symbolic meaning of clean, pure, righteous, and justified. Only those who delve deeply into this text can catch the meaning. It is easy to understand how the world is upset with its conditions. But this text is telling those who can accept it, that THIS TROUBLE is justified. It is based on righteous judgment concerning the way man has and is doing things. Verse 7 had just informed us that "the hour of His judgment is come." But "WHITE" is telling us

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that this trouble -- despite its terrible appearance -- is for GOOD. It is WHITE. It is measured, controlled, and doled out with precision. It is here to do mankind good as a result of its terrible elements. Few on this earth can look at what is happening today and say, "This is very good!" And yet, that is exactly what this verse is saying. This cloud is white; this trouble is justified and good for the human race in the long run.

The verse also tells us that Jesus is "sitting on the cloud." "SITTING ON" is a symbol of controlling. Just as a man sitting on a horse controls its direction and speed, this troublous cloud is controlled by a divine spirit being. This trouble does not run wild and out of control. Its control is somewhat described in Psalm 76:10 where it is written, "The wrath of man shall praise thee; the remainder of wrath shalt Thou restrain." In plain English, this means that everything transpiring will end up with our praising God for it. And ANYTHING that won't do that will be stopped! What a promise! Indeed, this trouble is measured out carefully, justly, and with absolute perfection and precision so that all of its results will be glorious. No wonder it is WHITE!

And WHO is sitting on or controlling this trouble? It is one who is described as "a Son of Man." This is a title Jesus really loved using. Doctrinally he loved using it because he became a man so that he could give himself a ransom for Adam so that Adam and his race could be released from the condemnation of sin. (I Timothy 2:5, 6; I Corinthians 15:21, 22) But, additionally, Jesus loved this title for himself because he enjoyed mankind -- even before mankind's perfection. Jesus could visualize the glories in store for the human race eventually. And he "delighted" in the prospect. His entire assignment from his Father concerning this earth was the restoration of this race. It is no wonder that he enjoyed calling himself "Son of Man." (Proverbs 8:30, 31; Acts 3:20, 21)

We have reached that time in God's plan when He has sent His Son to restore the race to perfection. But FIRST, Jesus must bring to an end the terrible abuses of mankind's systems of society, politics, economics, and confusing and contrasting religions. THIS is why the restoration begins with the "cloud" of trouble. But it IS WHITE! Its results will be all for the benefit of the human race -- even though its turmoil will be terrible to the extreme. The old expression about a cloud's having a "silver lining" fits very well in regard to this Scripture.

As soon as man's corrupt institutions have melted under the pressures of our day, the prophecy of Isaiah 14:7 will come to pass: "The whole earth is at rest and is quiet. They break forth into singing!"

HAPPY NEW YEAR. It will bring us ever closer to that glorious hope which is now not remote, but is in the very near future.

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