

General Church Education



The Lord on the White Horse

Revelation 19:11-21

Lesson 36

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 4: The Lord Is the Hero

For ages 9-10

The Lord on the White Horse

Revelation 19:11-21

For Parents and Teachers

The book of Revelation includes many visions that appeared to the disciple John while he was on the Isle of Patmos. Some of these visions give us a picture of the New Church John saw the New Church in prophecy, and yet it wouldn't come into existence until the time when the Lord prepared Emanuel Swedenborg to write down the new truths of His second coming. These truths could then form a New Church in the minds of people on earth and of the angels in heaven. The vision of the Lord on a white horse is given near the end of the book of Revelation, just before the descent of the Holy City. The Holy City could not descend until a great war had taken place in the spiritual world. The war was the final conquest over evil spirits by the angels of heaven. The evil spirits were put back into the hells so they could not infest the heavens and cause the angels trouble any more. The Lord on the white horse, with the armies of heaven behind him, pictures this battle.

Horses correspond to the understanding. Our understanding is the part of us where we learn knowledges, learn to think, and to form ideas. It is how the Lord comes to us. When we have learned truths from the Word, our understanding may be lifted up to give perspective on our desires and actions. The understanding gives us the power to judge whether our loves are good and our actions are true.

Ideas for Children

- The rider on the white horse is the Lord, who is the Word.
- Truth from the Word can lift us up and give clear perspective on our feelings and thoughts.
- The Lord revealed spiritual truths in His second coming to fight the hells and lead us to heaven.

From the Writings

“The one seated on the white horse is the Word, and He is the Lord who is the Word, for what is said is that His name is called The Word of God; and then, He has written on His garment and on His thigh the title King of Kings and Lord of Lords.” *White Horse* 1

“The Lord on the white horse describes the Lord as the Word. His eyes like a flame of fire mean the Divine Wisdom of His Divine Love. The diadems on His head and the name which no one but He knows mean the Divine Truths in the Word which come from Him, and that no one sees what the Word is like in its spiritual sense except the Lord and those to whom He reveals it. A garment dyed in blood means the natural sense of the Word, that is, the literal sense, to which violence was done. It is quite plain that it is the Word which is so described, for it says ‘His name is called The Word of God.’ It is also quite plain that it is the Lord who is meant, for it says that the name of him who sat on the white horse was ‘King of kings and Lord of lords’, much as in Revelation 17:14, where it says: ‘And the Lamb shall overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings.’” *True Christian Religion* 196

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Vocabulary

apostle—a person sent out to deliver the Lord’s message

thigh—part of the leg between the hip and the knee

The Lord gives us His Word so we can have a clear idea of who He is. The truths in the Word are like mirrors in which we can see different qualities of the Lord. In the Old and New Testaments the Lord prophesied He would give a new revelation so they could know Him even more clearly.

At Christmas time we talked about how the Lord came into the world because people no longer had His truth to lead and guide them. They had no true idea of the Lord. He came to teach about Himself and how to live a good life. The Lord’s coming on earth was the beginning of the Christian Church.

The last book in the New Testament, the book of Revelation, prophesied that this Christian church would one day end. Once again, people would become confused about the Lord’s truth. When this happened, the Lord would come again to give people a new way of understanding of Him and His Word.

The Beginning of the New Church

The Lord came again to build a New Church on earth through a new revelation. This revelation was given through His servant, Emanuel Swedenborg. The visions the apostle John saw on the Isle of Patmos tell about the beginning of this New Church. John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully prepared for her husband.



The most important teaching in the New Church is that the Lord Jesus Christ is the one God of heaven and earth.

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John saw a throne in heaven, and One sitting on the throne, with a scroll in His hand. As each of the seven seals on the scroll were bro-

ken John saw a magnificent vision in heaven. The first four visions were of horses and their riders. *Revelation 6:1–8* tells about the white horse, the red horse, the black horse, and the pale horse.

One of the last visions John saw was of the Lord Himself on a White Horse. Read about this vision in *Revelation 19:11–16*.

What did John tell us about the rider on the white horse?

- His eyes were like a flame of fire
- On His head were many crowns
- He had a name written that no one knew except Himself
- He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood
- His name is called The Word of God
- Out of His mouth went a sharp sword
- A name was written on His robe and on His thigh: King of Kings and Lord of Lords



The Beast and His Armies Defeated

The Lord was dressed for battle, like a Hero, with all the angel armies of heaven riding behind Him on white horses. This vision is a picture of the Lord's final battle against the hells. He used the sword of truth coming out of his mouth to destroy all who made war with Him. The evil spirits were put back into hell so they could no longer trouble the heavens or take over people's minds on earth. Once this battle was finished the beautiful city, the New Jerusalem, could descend from heaven.

Read *Revelation 19:17-21*.

The Writings teach that the white horse means our understanding. Our understanding is the part of our mind which learns facts. It is the home of our thinking. It's the place where we know things and form ideas. The understanding—the white horse—is not invented by any person. It is formed from the Lord. The true ideas you learn from the Word are like a great beautiful white horse. If in our thoughts we look to the Lord, we will have a way into the deepest and most beautiful truths that make up the kingdom of heaven.

The white horse is an ancient symbol. Maybe you have heard the myth of Pegasus, the beautiful winged horse? People in ancient times knew that truths from the Lord could lift their thoughts up, like a horse with wings. Truths can lift up our minds as well. From this high place in our thoughts,

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we can look down on our lives and see what we should do. We can think about our feelings, and decide if they are good or bad. We can think about acting in ways that are honest and good.

The worldly ideas we learn can teach us many useful things, but they cannot teach us about the Lord. We can only learn about the Lord and His kingdom by reading the Word. At the end of the book of Revelation the Lord says, “Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” This meant that the Lord opened up the books of the Word in His second coming. On every page we can find out what people from ancient times could see. This is what makes the New Church new.

Exciting new truths are on every page of the Word. When we know many of these truths they can begin to be like a beautiful white horse with the Lord riding on it. These truths have great power. They can lift us up to see what we love and value. And we can choose to follow the Lord and enter into His Holy City.

Parts of this lesson are adapted from a talk by Rev. Frederick Schnarr.

Discussion Questions

- Can you think of another story in which the Lord rode on something like a horse? Where was He going? What did people think He would do?
- Why do you think the Lord was wearing white and rode on a white horse? (White stands for the truth—the truth that fights and judges.)
- In what ways can the Lord’s Word be like a horse?
- What “new” true ideas did the Lord reveal in His second coming?
- Who is invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb?

Activity Overview | The Lord on a White Horse

New Church Day Lesson

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

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 19:11

Projects

Choose one or two activities.

- Winged White Horse Model
- The Lord on a White Horse Word Search
- Picture to Color—The Lord on a White Horse (Revelation 19)

Additional Activity Ideas

- Make a shoe box diorama of the Lord on a white horse. Directions are online at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/project-john-sees-the-lord-on-a-white-horse-diorama-revelation19.pdf>.
- Make a stained glass window of the Lord riding on a white horse. Directions are online at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/project-the-lord-on-white-horse-stained-glass-window-revelation19.pdf>.
- Make a white horse cake. Simple directions for making a 9x13 inch cake with a horse stencil for decorating are online at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/project-make-a-white-horse-cake-revelation19.pdf>.
- Cut out and assemble a puzzle showing a beautiful stained glass picture of the Lord on a white horse. This project is online at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/project-white-horse-stained-glass-window-puzzle-revelation19.pdf>.

Activity 1 | Winged White Horse Model

In the Word, horses correspond to the part of us that takes in ideas and thinks, our “understanding”. A *white* horse “represents and signifies an understanding of the Word” (*White Horse 1*). True ideas from the Word lift our minds to see what is good and true, so we can live a good life.

The famous Greek mythical horse, Pegasus, had wings. People thought it created a spring of water where ever its hooves touched the earth. The Writings tell us that wings are symbols of power (*Apocalypse Revealed 245*).

This activity combines the image of the beautiful white horse which the Lord rode in Revelation, with the tremendous power of wings. The winged horse shows how ideas from the Lord’s Word lift us up to give us a soaring perspective on our lives.



Materials Needed

Winged White Horse, 2 copies

scissors

stapler

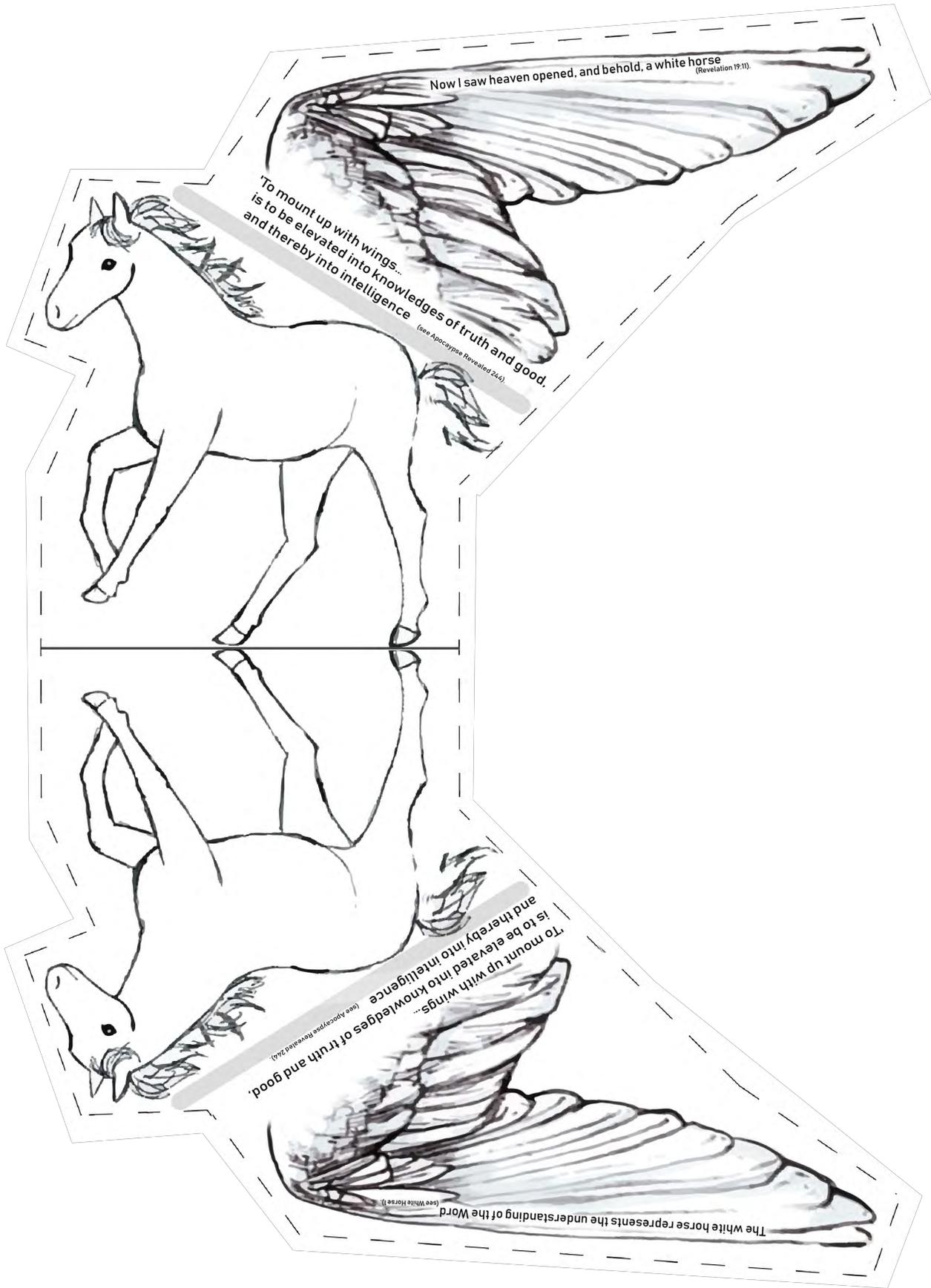
optional: supplies for decorating

Directions

1. Place the two copies of the *Winged White Horse* back to back so the pictures are mirror-imaged when held up to the light. Staple the pages together in one place *inside the dashed lines* so they do not shift when you cut them out. Cut out the stapled copies of the winged horse on the dashed lines.



2. Fold the *White Winged Horse* on the solid black line between the horses. Trim if desired. (See photo on left.)
3. Staple the horses together in two or three places. Staple each wing to hold the copies together.
4. Fold each wing on the grey lines. (See photo at top of page.)
5. For greater “flapping” movement of the wings, fold each wing downwards again at the “elbow” joint.



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