

The Heavenly Warrior

Introduction

During the season of Advent, imagining Jesus as a warrior may be difficult for some. But throughout scripture, especially in the Gospel of John, the book of Hebrews and the book of Revelation as referenced here, there is one weapon that God uses to conquer sin, death, and the devil: the Word of God. Often, we believe and try to fight our temptations, sin, and this world with our own will and way, but scripture is clear. There is only one who carries God's Word and has the power to conquer the battle between good and evil, life and death: Jesus. The baby whose birth we eagerly await during Advent (the Word Incarnate, Immanuel, the Messiah, the Christ) comes to conquer and transform our hearts, our souls, and this very world. It is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords who comes to us as an infant to save and free us.

Read Your Bible

- Hebrews 4:12-13
- Revelation 19:11-16
- John 1:1-14

Apply God's Word

1. Hebrews 4:12 talks about God's word as alive and active. What example does the writer of Hebrews give?
2. In what ways have you seen, heard of, or experienced the active word of God?
3. Hebrews 4:13 tells us that nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. What are the various ways people might respond to this statement and truth?

4. In Revelation 19:12 what significance does it make that the Heavenly Warrior wears multiple crowns on his head and has, “a name written on him that no one knows but he himself?” (hint: see Rev. 13:1 and John 14:13)
5. In Revelation 19:15 what is the one weapon used in the battle against the adversaries of God?
6. How does it make you feel to know that the Heavenly Warrior, Jesus, is the only one who ultimately wields the weapon and scepter of rule?
7. Who is the Word of God in John 1:1-14?
8. What surprises you most about the Word of God in this passage?
9. Compare the description of the Son in John 1:14 with the description of the Heavenly Warrior in Revelation 19:11. Why are these descriptions important?
10. When you read John’s version of the Christmas story, what is most inspiring for you?

Reflecting on the text:

- What have you learned about God?
- What have you learned about the world?
- What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Heavenly Father, you are the maker of all things and the one in whom all creation has its being. As we prepare to receive your Son again this Advent, renew us in faith toward Him. As we face our daily battles in this broken world, remind us that your Word has the power to free us and save us, and the victory is already yours. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.