> *Main Scripture:— Revelation 19:15 (NKJV)*
> “Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”

Understanding the Symbolism of the “Rod of Iron”

In the Bible, a rod (or staff) is often symbolic of authority and discipline. Shepherds traditionally use wooden staffs to guide and correct their sheep—this imagery reflects gentle, corrective leadership.

But when Jesus is described as ruling the nations “with a rod of iron,” the image changes. This is no longer about gentle guidance; it’s about firm, unbreakable rule and righteous judgment. Iron signifies strength, inflexibility, and finality.

Why Iron?

A wooden rod, while it may cause discomfort, rarely does lasting harm. It’s used to correct, not to destroy. But an iron rod—like a

metal bar—is dangerous, potentially deadly. It’s not meant to merely discipline, but to crush opposition if necessary.

This change in imagery shows a shift in Jesus’ role—from the gentle shepherd of believers to the righteous judge and king over rebellious nations.

Jesus as the Good Shepherd (Now)

Jesus Himself says:

> “I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.”
> — John 10:14 (NKJV)

Right now, Jesus lovingly leads His people—His “sheep”—using a wooden rod, so to speak. When believers stray, He disciplines with love, aiming to bring them back, not to destroy them (see Hebrews 12:6).

Jesus as Righteous King (In the Future)

When Jesus returns to establish His Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 20:1–6), His rule will be direct, visible, and absolute. There will be peace on earth, but not because evil ceases to exist—rather, because it will be immediately judged.

> “He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels.”
> — Psalm 2:9 (NKJV), also quoted in Revelation 2:27

Here, the rod is used not for guidance, but for enforcing justice and maintaining peace.

No Tolerance for Sin in the Millennial Kingdom

> — Isaiah 65:20 (NKJV)
>
> “No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days... For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.”

This prophecy shows how strict and fair justice will be during Christ’s reign. Even though people will live longer, unrepentant sinners will still be judged.

Participation of the Saints

Believers who overcome and remain faithful will rule alongside Christ:

> — Revelation 2:26–27 (NKJV)
>
> “And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’—as I also have received from My Father.”

Two Rods: Wooden and Iron

Jesus essentially holds two rods:

1. The Wooden Rod – Representing grace, patience, and correction (used now for His church).
2. The Iron Rod – Representing judgment and authority (used in His future reign).

Today, He offers mercy and salvation. But soon, He will bring justice. The rod of iron also foreshadows the judgments before His kingdom begins, including plagues and global upheavals (see Revelation 6–18).

Final Call: Choose the Shepherd Now

Now is the time to receive Christ as the Good Shepherd. Accepting His leadership today spares us from facing His judgment later.

> — Isaiah 55:6 (NKJV)
>
> “Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.”—
>
> 2 Corinthians 6:2 (NKJV)
>
> “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

May the Lord bless you as you consider His call. These are indeed

the last days—the rapture is near. Let Jesus shepherd you today, so you may reign with Him tomorrow.

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