



A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE END TIMES
Week 77: The Second Coming of Jesus Christ, Part 2
February 11, 2024
Instructor: Steve Schmutzer

Review:

- A. Last week we began a two-part study on the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, and our text was ***Revelation Ch. 19.***

- B. We learned last week that John records a scene in heaven that is sandwiched between the conclusion of the Bowl Judgements and the final Battle of Armageddon.
 1. In this scene, John sees the church, described as the Bride of Christ, giving praise to God in worship and song.
 2. The angels are a part of this praise gathering as well. The combined adulation is described as; a 'roar of a great multitude,' 'the roar of rushing waters,' and 'like loud peals of thunder.'
 3. It is a spontaneous eruption of praise to Jesus Christ because the conclusion of the Great Tribulation has come. Jesus is about to physically descend upon the earth and vanquish His enemies, and all of heaven is consumed with the glory of God.

- C. Following were a series of descriptions given regarding Jesus Christ as He prepares to return to earth in view of the entire globe. Some of these are:
 1. His eyes are like a blazing fire and His gaze is piercing and all-seeing. Nobody deserving judgment escapes His gaze.
 2. He's riding a white war horse, not a humble donkey this time, but a kingly steed
 3. His head is crowned with many crowns. This is an indication that He will conquer and overcome many earthly kings. Jesus Christ is, and will become, the ultimate ruler.
 4. He is wearing bloody garments. These are the same garments He had when He previously appeared at Petra in Bozrah. There, He defeated His enemies there in real conflict, and their blood spattered His robe.
 5. He is pictured as having a sword coming out of His mouth. This is figurative language to describe that Jesus will defeat His enemies in this final conflict with a mere spoken Word. (We looked at other passages that confirm this).
 6. Lastly, we saw that Jesus will wield an iron scepter. This is synonymous with various other prophetic passages that discuss how Jesus will reign with a 'rod of iron.' This means His rule and justice will be unquestionable, exact, swift, and uncompromising.

- D. We concluded by looking at the role of the angels in this event.
 1. We are told in various prophetic passages that this is a time when His angels will supernaturally gather 'His elect from the four winds.'

2. All of God's surviving saints will be gathered from all parts of the world at this time in preparation to meet their Lord and Savior.
 3. We are told in various passages that it will not be just the elect that will be gathered this way. Angels will also supernaturally gather in those rebels and those who have refused salvation by Jesus Christ.
 4. These too will be gathered in from all points on the globe for the judgment of the nations. The bottom line is, the relatively few remaining humans by this point are all going to be concentrated in the Valley of Jehoshaphat, between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives.
 5. Those who have a lack of faith will be judged for their words and deeds. It is their own choices that will condemn them, much the same as it will be at the Great White Throne Judgment.
 6. Specifically, we saw in **Joel 3:2** that a key indicator of their lack of faith is their attitude and posture towards the Jews and towards Israel.
 7. Specific in these wrong attitudes are their various displays of antisemitism, their poor treatment of the Jews, and their support of dividing up the land of Israel – in today's political vernacular, this is a "two state solution."
 8. We noted last week that there is NO place in the Christian faith for an improper view of Israel and the Jews. There is NO place in the Christian faith for replacement theology, for any ridicule of Bible-based dispensationalism, for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, and for a two-state solution, etc.
 9. As **Joel 3:2** makes it plain, these kinds of views and postures are inconsistent with a true faith, for it is partly these postures and attitudes that will condemn these unbelievers that are supernaturally gathered at the end of days for judgement.
 10. As I emphasized last week, this is a very sobering wake-up call for all the churches, "Christian" leaders, and so-called "believers" today which feel justified, tolerant, and politically correct as they emulate the woke attitudes and language of the left.
- E. I want to make a couple of additional comments here since some of you are moderately distressed at these last few points.
1. Keep in mind that the greater church today – by far! - is an apostate church. Especially in Western cultures.
 - a. That means it has largely departed from the truth.
 - b. We may be reluctant to see things this way, but we need to look at the picture through the lens of Scripture, not a lens we want to peer through.
 2. Individual churches frequently do not teach the truth as they ought to, and they do not humbly submit to the full counsel of God's Word as they are supposed to.
 3. This tragic condition conforms perfectly to the Laodicean Church which we read about in **Revelation 3:14-22**. This is a picture of the unhealthy condition of the church just prior to the Rapture:

- a. A church might say, "It's all about Jesus," but we see it is likely a church that Jesus Christ is instead trying to get into according to **vs. 20**. ***"behold I stand at the door and knock..."***
 - b. It is a church that needs to be serious about its calling, but it tolerates sin and deception, therefore it needs to repent in **vs. 19**.
 - c. It is a church that is obsessed with its finances, its resources, its programs, and its own view of being a stable and healthy church in **vs. 17**.
 - d. We read in other Scripture that it is a church that diminishes, even ridicules, the themes of Bible prophecy.
 - e. It is a church that does not endure sound doctrine, but instead settles for substandard teachers and shallow repetitive themes that 'tickle ears.'
 - f. A key assessment of this kind of church is: it is one that is deluded. It cannot be confronted about what it has become because it is already self-deceived.
 - g. It does not, it cannot, and it refuses to see itself as God sees it: "wretched, blind, naked, lukewarm, shameful" and so on.
 - h. It is a church according to **Matthew Ch. 7** in which "many" will be deceived into thinking they are in a right standing with God when, in fact, they are not.
4. NOTE: All these conditions may begin innocuously enough:
- a. There is an over-the-top obsession with being the church in the first place. Their interpretation of God's Word is all geared towards emphasizing the importance of the church.
 - b. They can only achieve this obsession by ignoring or diminishing essential dispensational truths. In fact, in many churches, any notion of dispensationalism is mocked and sidelined. I think this is because dispensationalism holds them to a higher and a harder standard.
 - c. This is most unfortunate, as dispensationalism believes in a literal interpretation of the Bible, particularly concerning the prophetic Scriptures.
 - d. Dispensationalism holds to the view that Israel is unique and separate from the church in God's divinely ordained program.
 - e. And so, we come full circle here: If one chooses to believe that God no longer has a plan for Israel, or that His focus is now exclusively on the church, then it's easy to set aside the accountabilities of Bible prophecy.
 - f. It's easy to focus on grace (or what one imagines that it is), it's easy to present various messages of "Gospel-lite" when only one true Gospel message should be presented.
 - g. It's easy to conform to the world's attitudes against Israel, it's easy to feel good about being politically correct, and it's easy to mock

anyone who tries to present Bible-based truth in amongst all the other lukewarm postures.

- h. It's unfortunate that some studies show up to 80% of churches today are described in the last few statements I have made.
- i. However, it's the truth, and it needs to be stated very clearly.

- I. Moving on now to **Revelation 19:17-21**. Here, we see the details of this final conflict known as the Battle of Armageddon. As we did last week, we'll move through this section verse by verse.

A. **Revelation 19:17-18**

- 1. John sees an angel "*standing in the sun.*"
 - a. The angel here has taken this position to be obvious in sight of the whole world.
 - b. The most direct explanation is that the angel is standing in the light of the sun with the angel himself possibly shining with even greater brilliance.
 - c. This angel has a message for all to hear, and so "*he cries in a loud voice.*"
 - d. Throughout the book of **Revelation**, we see angels administering their messages in a loud voice.
 - e. The idea each time is that it's an important message and everyone will hear it.
- 2. But here specifically, the angel's message is also directed to birds, and he is summoning all the birds to a great feast.
 - f. (NOTE: Various prophecy scholars over the years have commented that Israel lies on a dominant migratory path for many populations of birds, specifically those sort that would take advantage of this opportunity.)
 - g. The angel is calling all the birds for this great feast as there are going to be a lot of dead bodies that need to be picked clean.
 - h. The angel calls this event "*the great supper of God,*" and he makes the point that the outcome of this pending conflict is already certain: it's going to be one that all of God's adversaries lose.
 - i. Then, the angel details the various menu items: "*generals, kings, mighty men, horses, and all people great and small.*" In other words, there is going to be a comprehensive death toll resulting from this conflict.
- 3. Jesus Himself indicated in **Matthew 24:27-28** that: at the time of His Second Coming, there would be great carnage and death upon which birds would feast:

“For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.”

4. This is not the only occasion that the birds feast on God’s enemies.
5. In the War of Gog and Magog in **Ezekiel 39:4**, God says he will give Israel’s invaders *“as food for all the carrion birds.”*
6. We know from that portion of Scripture that this includes the armies and populations of: Russia, Iran, Turkey, Libya, and others.

B. Revelation 19: 19

1. John sees the antichrist and all his allies assembled to make war against Jesus Christ.
 - a. This is the beast who rose from the abyss in a miraculous resurrection from death, who was worshiped by all the depraved earth dwellers, and of whom it was said: *“Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?”*
 - b. The implied answer is, “Nobody!”
 - c. The point is, the depraved and rebellious world of that time will be convinced that the antichrist cannot be conquered.
 - d. They will be convinced he cannot die. They will be convinced he will win in this battle against Jesus Christ.
 - e. Remember, this is all part of the deceptive demonic message that was mentioned back in **Revelation 16:14** during the 6th Bowl Judgment.
 - f. We’re told there that all the kings of the earth were summoned by the antichrist, by the False Prophet, and by Satan himself to join in this Battle of Armageddon.
 - g. They will believe the antichrist is invincible, but they will be wrong, they will be “DEAD wrong.”
 - h. This all goes to show that one deception leads to another bigger deception. It builds upon itself. It starts small, and it grows.
 - i. In this case, the deception starts with THE lie (**Cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:11**), then it grows to believing the antichrist is invincible, then it grows into believing Jesus Christ can be conquered. That’s the way deception is...
2. **Revelation 19: 20 & 21** The beast and the False Prophet are captured alive.
 - a. This fact stands in contrast to all the others that are killed (**Cf. vs. 21**)
 - b. This verse then reminds us of the role of deception and delusion the False Prophet had as his job description:
 - j. The main purpose of the False Prophet is to deceive the depraved earth dwellers into worshiping the antichrist, and to cause them to receive his mark and to worship his image.

- k. He was empowered by Satan to perform lying signs and wonders. These had the purpose of deceiving those who perish, *“because they did not receive the love of the truth that would have saved them” (Cf. **2 Thessalonians 2:10**).*
 - l. Again, we have reinforced to us here the gradual process of deception. It starts at a lesser level, then grows from there.
3. Then, in the latter part of **vs. 20** we read that the antichrist and the False Prophet were *“thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.”*
- a. This is a reference to Hell. The antichrist and the False Prophet become the first two occupants of Hell.
 - b. Satan becomes the third occupant in **Revelation 20:10**, and the Bible seems to make the case that all unsaved humanity will then join those three thereafter.
 - c. Remember, from prior lessons, the unsaved dead who have died throughout human history are first placed into Hades. We learned this from our study of **Luke Ch. 16** and the parable of the rich man and Lazarus.
 - d. All these unsaved people who have died are in Hades – a place of great heat and torment – and are awaiting the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Millennial Kingdom.
 - e. It is AFTER this point they will then be tossed into Hell, AKA “the second death.” (NOTE: We’ll be studying this in a couple weeks).
 - f. Here, the antichrist and the False Prophet bypass Hades, they are tossed into Hell right away.
 - g. It’s not because they were especially bad: this is a faulty understanding. It’s because they are already eternally condemned because of WHO (or rather “WHAT”) they are.
 - h. I believe the antichrist and the False Prophet are not human, or not fully human. They are Nephilim. They are the last great element of that battle of the physical seeds that was first prophesied all the way back in **Genesis 3:15**.
 - i. Some prophecy scholars teach that the antichrist and the False Prophet are this Nephilim constitution from birth (for example: LA Marzulli believes in the *“Rosemary’s Baby”* idea: that Satan directly fathers the antichrist with a human woman), but I tend to lean in the understanding that the antichrist, during and after his resurrection, BECOMES a Nephilim.
 - j. This seems to conform best to what Nimrod, the first great type of the antichrist in **Gen. 10:9** seems to have experienced.
 - k. A careful study of **Gen. 10:9** seems to suggest Nimrod *“began to be”* something he had not been before.
 - l. Likely, through occultic processes, I think Nimrod became something different than what he had started out to be, and I think this is the case

for the antichrist and likely the False Prophet too, who follow in Nimrod's type.

- m. It's why there is no purpose for them to appear at the Great White Throne Judgment. They are already condemned. They are occultic personalities, which are not fully human.
 - n. This is why I think those who take the Mark of the Beast are also announced as being eternally condemned. That's why the angel in **Revelation Ch. 14** issues that warning.
 - o. I think the earth dwellers that take the Mark of the Beast take in some element of the antichrist, and as a result, they are no longer 100% human, and from that point on, God's grace and mercy are not the key issue anymore.
 - p. These individuals from that point on are no longer redeemable because of WHAT they had chosen to become.
4. Then, we read as we noted earlier: *"the rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse."*
- a. We looked at some related passages concerning this sword last week, and we know from that lesson that Jesus slays His enemies here with the *breath of His mouth*, presumably, a spoken word or command.
 - b. Jesus physically fought before in the battle at Petra, and also in the campaign against Jerusalem which follows that.
 - c. This is why His garments here are stained with blood. But here, He defeats His enemies with a simple spoken word.
 - d. This chapter ends with another reminder that all the birds have the buffet of their lives. They *"gorged themselves"* the Bible says.