

THE KING IS COMING

Revelation 19:11-21

Introduction:

Prophecy is a very significant part of both the Old and New Testament Scriptures. And a very significant focus of the prophetic Scriptures, in both the Old and New Testaments is the Second Coming of Christ.

This past week in my daily reading through the Bible I have been in the Book of Job. A few days ago I came to Job 19. In the midst of unthinkable misery and pain, Job makes this amazing statement, *“For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!”* (Job 19:25-27)

Job is believed to have lived in the time of the patriarchs, somewhere around 1500 – 2000 BC. Yet even that far back he had been given enough insight and understanding to make a statement that contains some significant prophetic truth. There are a couple of important elements to Job’s statement:

- First, there is the return of Christ. Even though this was 2 millennia before Christ came the first time, yet Job somehow had the knowledge that one day the Messiah, the Redeemer would return, visibly, in the flesh to stand again on this earth.
- Then there is the reality of the resurrection. Job predicted that even though his body would be destroyed, yet he would one day stand before God. His body would be raised up and he would see God in the flesh.

His reaction to this amazing truth is, *“My heart faints within me!”* The return of Christ to this earth is the most significant event that is prophesied in the Scriptures. *“Christ’s return...is the personal, visible return of the Lord to the earth in resplendent glory.”* (Levy) When Christ comes back, the paradise that was lost in Adam’s disobedience will be regained. Everything that is wrong in this world will be made right.

One of the things we need to be clear about is the difference between the Rapture and the Return of Christ. Many times people confuse the two, by referring to the Rapture of the Church as the Second Coming of Christ. The two occurrences are distinct and separate events. The Rapture may happen at any time. There is nothing that needs to happen before the Rapture occurs. Christ’s Second Coming will not occur until after the seven years of the Great Tribulation have been completed. At that point Christ will return to establish his kingdom on earth.

With that in mind, let us turn to Revelation 19 – *read vv. 11-21*. There are four areas I want to cover today. First – review some background to set this passage into context on the timeline of end time events. Second – the appearing of the Messiah as he returns to earth (vv. 11-12). Third – the Vengeance of the Messiah (vv. 13-16), Fourth - the conquest and victory of the Messiah over his enemies (vv. 17-21).

The Context of Messiah’s Return

If you have the chart by David Levy that I distributed many months ago, you will find it handy at this point. I am just going to review briefly a series of events:

- The events of the end are set in motion by the Rapture of the Church.
- The seven seals: The appearance of a false Messiah—the Anti-christ—riding on a white horse, promising peace. This is followed by months of conquest, war, famine and death.
- The seven trumpets: great peril and judgment on the earth and those who opposed and rejected God.
- The seven bowl judgments: Horrendous, cataclysmic events bringing utter destruction on the earth.
- During this time there will be many other things happening both in heaven and on earth. Millions of people will reject the Antichrist and choose to follow Jesus, at the cost of their own lives. Satan will unleash his hatred on Israel and try to utterly destroy her.

This will all culminate—at the end of the seven-year Tribulation—in Satan prompting the kings of the east along with all the nations the earth to assemble at Megiddo, to attack and destroy Israel (16:12-16).

During this time, as the nations are gathering for war, there is a great scene of celebration and worship in heaven, which we saw a couple of weeks ago in the first part of chapter 19. The celebration is in preparation for the marriage of Christ and his bride, the Church. The invitation to the marriage supper have been sent out (v. 9) But before that can be completed and the marriage supper can occur, there is still more to happen. Christ will first return to earth as Messiah and King, to defeat the armies of earth and establish his kingdom. That is where we are at today, in the second half of the 19th chapter.

So let's look at...

The Appearing of the Messiah – vv. 11-12

The previous scene, in vv. 1-10, took place in heaven. Now John is back on the earth, but he sees heaven opened, so he can see into heaven. And what he sees seems almost familiar. It's a white horse – see chapter 6:2. That was the arrival of the Antichrist – a false Messiah. But this time it is the real thing. This is the Second Coming of the Messiah. And what a contrast with the first coming. David Levy describes it:

“At his First Coming, Christ rode into Jerusalem in a lowly state, sitting on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He was given no throne, only a cross; His crown was thorns; His scepter was a reed. But here, the Lord is seated on a white horse, ready for departure from heaven as a Warrior-King. He is poised for battle array, coming ‘in righteousness [to] judge and to make war’ (v. 11) against the Antichrist, the False Prophet, and all who follow them.”

Note the names and titles given to him at his appearing:

- Faithful and True – He can be counted on to keep his promises. He is genuine, real, able to deliver what he has promised, unlike the false Messiah of chapter 6.
- He has a name written that only he knows – if John could read that name, apparently he could not understand or make sense of it.
- He is called the “Word of God.” He is the eternal living Word that proceeds from the mouth of God. He is the Creator who spoke everything into existence. He is the Word who became flesh to dwell among us. He is the full revelation of God. And it is the word of his

mouth that will defeat all his enemies in this final battle of Armageddon.

- On his robe is a name written, “King of kings and Lord of lords.” He is the ultimate king and has complete right and authority to rule over this world and all of creation.

We are told that he has eyes like a flame of fire. This suggests He has a penetrating gaze, a look of intelligence, power and righteousness. On his head are many diadems, speaking of his majestic position as King of kings over heaven and earth.

The Vengeance of Messiah – vv. 13-16

Verses 13-15 speak of his vengeance and retribution on those who opposed him - *read them again*. There is so much that could be said regarding this sections. But to see the context I want to take you back to Isaiah for a moment. There we find this event predicted in ancient prophecy.

Turn to Isaiah 63:1-6 and read it. Go back to Rev. 19. A few key thoughts:

- “...robe dipped in (sprinkled with) blood...” – this is not his own blood that was shed on the cross, but the blood of his enemies, when they are repaid for their evil deeds.
- He is accompanied by “the armies of heaven.” This would include the angelic hosts, the church saints, the Old Testament believers and the martyred Tribulation saints.
- Verse 15 – sharp sword – the Word of God. The sword is symbolic, referring to Christ’s Word that proceeds from His mouth. Christ, as the Warrior-King, will simply speak and consume the Antichrist and his army with the Word of His mouth. 2 Thess. 2:8 tells us, “*And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.*”
- “He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.” At Armageddon God’s enemies will be utterly destroyed. The Antichrist and all those who stand with him will be trampled and consumed by the wrath of the Almighty.

The Final Victory of the Messiah – vv. 17-21

While vv. 13-15 spoke of what was going to happen, we see that final victory brought to fruition in these verses. I want to read them again and then just make a couple of observations. *Read vv. 17-21.*

A couple of notes regarding the Antichrist and his followers:

- Verse 19 – the armies of the world, led by the beast—Antichrist—will converge on Megiddo to do battle. The object of their wrath may outwardly be the nation of Israel, but ultimately it is Messiah himself, along with all who follow Him.
- The Beast and the False Prophet will face their final judgment right here as they will be captured and cast into the lake of fire where they will spend eternity

One other note: This section begins with an invitation from the angel to the birds overhead to gather together for a great supper, as they will feast on the flesh of kings and mighty men, horses and soldiers. There is going to be a great slaughter (vv. 17-18). It ends in v. 21 with the fulfillment of that prediction.

Conclusion

We live in a world where it seems that everything is going wrong. Sin is rampant. Evil is everywhere. The courts are rewriting the laws of our nation and other nations. There is no regard for God or righteousness.

But I want to let you in a little secret. I've read the last chapter of the book. I know how it ends. One of these days, when the Messiah returns, he will set everything right. He will defeat Satan. He will put an end to the Antichrist and the False Prophet. Evil will be done away with, and righteousness will reign.

Many today laugh in the face of those who seek to live righteous lives. They mock religious do-gooders. But one day they will discover the truth and it will be too late.

That in itself ought to challenge us this morning, as we think about our own lives and our responsibility to those around us.