

The Apocalypse

“The Second Coming of Jesus Christ”

Revelation 19 – June 5, 2016

Our Sermon Series

THE APOCALYPSE		
A 14-Week Sermon Series on The Book of Revelation		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Mar 26-27	The Revelation of Jesus Christ	Revelation 1-3
April 3	The Throne in Heaven	Revelation 4-5
April 10	The 7 Seals in Heaven	Revelation 6
April 17	The People in Heaven	Revelation 7
April 24	The 7 Trumpets in Heaven	Revelation 8-9
May 1	The Two Witnesses from Heaven	Revelation 10-11
May 8	War in Heaven	Revelation 12
May 15	The Anti-Christ and the False Prophet	Revelation 13-14
May 22	The 7 Bowls in Heaven	Revelation 15-16
May 29	The Fall of Babylon	Revelation 17-18
June 5	The Second Coming of Jesus Christ	Revelation 19
June 12	The Millennium	Revelation 20
June 19	Heaven – Part 1	Revelation 21
June 26	Heaven – Part 2	Revelation 22

Context

- The context for Revelation 19 is the Fall of Babylon
- Who is “Babylon?”
 - Her name is “mother of prostitutes and earth's abominations.” Lovely.
 - Unifies the relentless pursuit of wealth and pleasure to the ruthless exercise of political and coercive power.
 - She represents the lust of godless societies for sensual pleasure and the rejection of all restraints (self-discipline).
- Sound familiar?
- Application #1 – As Christians, reading Revelation 17-19 should be strangely comforting to us:
 - As we watch a culture conforming more and more to look like Babylon, God is not surprised, even if we are. He predicted this a long time ago.
 - We will win! That is what Revelation 19 is all about.
- The word “Hallelujah” occurs only in Rev. 19 in the New Testament (vv. 1,3,4,6). It comes from Hebrew term for “Praise Yahweh” seen often in the Psalms (Ps. 113-118).

Quick Note on Verse One

- Verse 1: “Loud voice of a great multitude”
- Rev. 7:9-10** – “A great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes...”
- “If you are a racist, you are going to hate heaven.” - Unknown
- Application #2 – How much does your life correlate with the diversity we will experience in eternal life? Few things are more hypocritical than racist Christians.

Three Observations from the Second Coming of Christ

- At the Second Coming of Christ, Heaven will Rejoice** (19:1-10)
 - God has judged His enemies** (vv. 1-4)
 - The great multitude praises God for His just vengeance on the prostitute (Babylon) who murdered the saints.
 - Twenty-four elders and four living creatures say “Amen.”
 - Romans 12:19** – “Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, say the Lord.’”
 - John Piper Quote
 - God is Reigning** (vv. 5-6)
 - Literally: “The Lord God omnipotent has begun to reign”
 - Reign: to be the best or the most powerful or important person or thing (Merriam-Webster)
 - Voice from the throne: Stop worrying about your status (“small and great”), instead fear God and praise Him. And leave the rest up to Him. Why? Because He reigns.
 - Do you treat God as though He reigns?
 - The Bride is Ready** (vv. 7-10)
 - The Bride = The Church
 - The Bridegroom = Jesus Christ, the Lamb
 - Important note: This is not the wedding union, rather this is the wedding feast
 - Three Main Aspects to a Jewish Wedding:
 - Betrothal (engagement) – A marriage contract was consummated by the parents while the marriage parties were still children. The payment of a suitable dowry was given.
 - Presentation – Bridegroom would build a house & then go to the bride and escort her to his home.

3. Ceremony – Marriage supper would take place at the house of the groom. Guests were invited.

<u>Jewish Weddings</u>	<u>Bride of Christ</u>
Betrothal (Luke 1:26-27)	Redemption (Eph. 1:7)
Presentation (Matt. 25:1-13)	Rapture (1 Thes. 4:16-17)
Ceremony (John 2:1-12)	Wedding Feast (Rev. 19:6-10)

- The message of the coming Marriage Supper of the Lamb should lead us to worship. Not of the mere messenger, but of the one of whom the message is about (vv. 9-10)
 - Lecrae: "I'm just the mailman."
- Application #3 – Worship God and thank Him for the coming Marriage Supper of the Lamb!

2. At the Second Coming of Christ, Jesus will not come this time as a Suffering Servant, but instead as a Conquering King (19:11-16)

- John Walvoord: "The Second Coming of Christ is not only the high point of Revelation but in many respects the high point of all history."
- What theologians call: The Initiation of the Consummation of the Kingdom of God.
- Notice that Jesus presented in Revelation is in contrast to the Christ of the Gospels:

<u>Christ in Gospels</u>	<u>Christ in Revelation</u>
Rejection & Humiliation	Triumph & Glory
Suffering & Death	Sovereignty & Majesty
Crown of thorns	Crown of Diadems
Inaugurates the Kingdom	Consummates the Kingdom
Servant	King

- Isaiah 53 – "The Suffering Servant"
- **Main Idea:** So many of the first century Jews missed the *Suffering Servant* because they were expecting the Rev. 19 *Conquering King*. So many twenty-first century Americans underestimate our *Conquering King* because they are expecting the *Suffering Servant*.
- Example: Interviewed people about Jesus
- **Philippians 2:9-11**
- Steven W. Smith: "Revelation teaches us about how Jesus wants us to think about Jesus."
 - "White horse" = White is color of victory (v. 11)
 - "Faithful and True" = identify the rider as the Son of God, Jesus (Rev. 1:5, 3:14) (v. 11)
 - "Diadems" = Crowns that signify royalty (v. 12)

- "Name no one knows but himself" = Divine mystery; the infinite being of the Son of God can never be fully known (v. 12)
- Robe dipped in blood" = The Cross, the blood of His enemies (v. 13)
- "The Word of God" = He is the greatest revelation of the Father (John 1:1, Heb. 1:1-2) (v. 13)
- "Armies of Heaven" = The Bride of Christ (v.14)
- "Sharp Sword" = Used to slay his enemies (see 19:21)
- "Rod of Iron" = Not a royal scepter, but the shepherd's club (v. 15)
- "King of kings and Lord of lords" (v. 16)
- Wrote next to my Bible: "Oh man, this is awesome!"
- Jesus' wrath should show us His righteous hatred towards sin.
- Application #4 – How accurate is your view of Jesus? The reality is, you either have to believe the Revelation 19 description of Jesus, or deny Him altogether. He has left us no other option. And one day, you will bow to *this* Jesus. (Philippians 2:9-11)

3. At the Second Coming of Christ, God will WIN! (19:17-21)

- **Deut. 28:26** – "And your dead body shall be food for all the birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten them away."
- Verse 19 - Literally, to make "the battle"
- Epic battle ensues:
 - Rider on White Horse vs. Beast and False Prophet
- Intense. Sort of. → We know the ending!
 - The Beast and the False Prophet = Lake of Fire
 - The Rest = Slain by the sword
- **2 Thes. 2:8** – "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."
- Video: Francis Chan – Jack Bauer

Conclusion

- The reality is: Jesus could come back at any time!
- **Matthew 24:36-42**
- Navy Seal Mindset
- The Return of Christ is so much sweeter to the one who is suffering well.
- Application #5 – "Jesus, help me live in light of your return! May that day consume my thoughts and inform my actions."