

Revelation #48**July 23, 2023****Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon****Today's Message: Yet, They Make War! The The Second Coming of Christ; Revelation 19:11-21**

"The question as to whether we are alone in the universe is about to be answered." This line comes from the movie, Independence Day. As important as that question is to the storyline of ID4, there is a significantly more important question that has been asked for over 2,000 years, and that is, Is Jesus Christ truly the living Savior and Sovereign Lord of the Universe? And here in Revelation 19:11-21, that question is answered!

Remember from the very beginning in Genesis we have seen evidence of the Usurper at work in human history beguiling, undermining, stealing, tempting, destroying, accusing, and opposing all the works of God. He has distorted, twisted, misrepresented, undermined, minimized and scoffed at the word of God. We have seen the corruption, distortion, destruction and chaos resulting from the satanic influence over leaders and kings and governors the world over and all through human history. And we have seen death reign over the offspring of Adam since the Garden of Eden.

In the Gospels you can hear the taunting of the Usurper, that is the devil. For instance, in Matthew you hear the seductive whisper of the devil as he comes to Jesus in His desert of temptation. You hear the first challenge, "If you are the Son of God turn these stones to bread." And the second challenge, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down." In the third temptation you hear a big lie from the devil, when he lies, saying, "All this I will give you, if you bow down and worship me."

Also in the gospels you hear the voice of demons with every shout of opposition and rejection of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God. With His arrest and trial and crucifixion the level of the vitriol and hatred and rejection and insult and unbelief came to a climax! Then came the resurrection!

In the Acts and Epistles, ever since the resurrection both the cross of Christ and the resurrection of Christ have been the central doctrine of Christianity. The twin doctrines preached and taught has meant forgiveness of sins and life everlasting for all who believe! Yet at the same time, running concurrently through history, the Usurper, our Adversary, has actively sowed the seeds of doubt and discouragement and unbelief, producing the weeds of oppression, hatred and hopelessness. That devil has worked to secrete the doctrines of demons into the Church, which is called the Pillar and Foundation of Truth (1 Timothy 3:15).

When we come to the Revelation we return to that question, Is Jesus Christ truly the living Savior and Sovereign Lord of the Universe? And Revelation provides the unfolding of the answer! To the people of

God Revelation reveals the glory of God and the answer to all our prayers and hopes and dreams in the person of Jesus Christ! To the Christian our salvation becomes sight as we see the events of Revelation unfold! And to the Christian we see our Savior riding out as Lord, vanquishing His foes right before our eyes! Every question about who Jesus is, is removed; every doubt, every fear is gone!

But to the enemies of our Sovereign Lord: The question is answered and yet they rage on; every denial is met with Truth; every attempt by the Usurper to hold on to that which was deceitfully gained, is crushed! For, when He who is Faithful and True rides forth and vanquishes the Enemy armies, there will be no more questions. They will all be answered! And, yes, without question, every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ, the Son of God is both Savior and Sovereign Lord!

Revelation 19:11-21 is remarkable. After all the signs of the seals, the trumpets, and the bowls— after all the devastation and destruction— Yet, They Make War!

Three sections: 1) 19:11-16, The Rider on the White Horse; 2) 19:17-18, The Gathering for the Great Supper of God; and 3) 19:19-21, The War: the Campaign of Armageddon Begins and Ends Quickly

I. (19:11-16) The Rider on the White Horse

A. From Glory to Glory

1. Remember Revelation 1:12-16

- a) The risen Jesus was described by John as the Great Judge
 - (1) Majestic Priestly Robes of the Great High Priest
 - (2) A glorious purity of righteousness described as hair as white and wool and snow.
 - (3) His eyes, which see everything, like blazing fire
 - (4) Feet like burnished bronze glowing as in fiery furnace
 - (5) His total Sovereign Authority is heard in His thundering voice.
 - (6) He carries the Churches in His right hand
 - (7) His judgment comes forth like a double edged sword.
 - (8) His ultimate glory is described as the brilliant shining of the sun.

2. Now, in Revelation 19:11-16

- a) John does not give His name as Jesus, but we see another awesome description of the same risen Savior and Sovereign Lord!
 - (1) The Name is descriptive of the risen Savior and Sovereign
 - (a) The Rider is named “Faithful and True”
 - (b) “The Word of God” (19:13)
 - (2) He wages war with Justice (a just war! Wow!)
 - (3) He sees everything as it truly is: eyes of blazing fire
 - (4) He wears many crowns

(5) He has a glorious name, known only to Him, that is written on Him

(a) A name beyond our comprehension!

(6) He is wearing a robe dipped in blood

(7) Out of His mouth comes a sharp sword to strike down the nations

(a) He will judge perfectly according to righteousness

(b) He will not stop until His enemies are defeated!

(8) **Summary:** He is the greatest ruler, the Great King, the judge of the nations and the commander of heaven's armies!

B. All the attention is on Him!

1. Not on the armies

2. Not on the enemies

3. But, all eyes are on Him!

a) He rides out leading the campaign

b) (v15b) He Takes authority and rules with an iron scepter

(1) This will not be a problem for true believers!

(2) But for any remaining rebels, this will be a problem. He will crush them, even during the millennial kingdom.

(a) By the way, remember **Psalm 2:8-9**? "Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your inheritance; the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

c) (v15c) He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

(1) His judgment is just, righteous and final and in complete accord with the will of God Almighty!

(a) This whole scene reminds me of **Isaiah 63:1-6**

(i) "Who is this?"

(a) It is He who shed His own blood for the salvation of His people. (Hebrews 2:14)

(b) At His victory at the cross, His enemies were defeated. Signifies their blood.

(ii) We see Him riding into the war as a conqueror!

C. Who is this?

1. His Name says it all. It is written on His robe and thigh: King of kings and Lord of lords.

a) His Name is a declaration of His Sovereign and absolute right to reign over His "soon-to-be-established Kingdom" (MacArthur).

II. (19:17-18) The Gathering for the Great Supper of God

A. Two Suppers/ Feasts in Revelation 19: Both announced by an angel (see 19:9 and 19:17)

1. 19:9: The wedding feast of the Lamb
 - a) Which I think will take place during the Millennial Kingdom reign on earth
 - (1) The wedding took place in Heaven (19:1-8)
 - (2) The Marriage Feast takes place on earth
2. 19:17-18: The Great Supper of God
 - a) The Beast has gathered all the world's rulers and armies in the Valley of Megiddo, to launch a campaign in rebellion against the Lord Jesus Christ and Jerusalem.
 - b) But, before the campaign begins, and war ensues, in 19:17-18, the invitation is sent out to all the birds.
 - (1) The carnage will be so vast and so much that God will use birds, and no doubt other wild animals to consume the dead bodies.
 - (a) These animals will not care if the fallen are small or great, free or slave.
 - (b) Application: There is no advantage gained for anyone at the great judgment.
 - (2) Ezekiel 39:12 reminds us that the carnage will be so severe and so vast that even after the birds have had their fill, it will take 7 more months to bury the dead!

III. (19:19-21) The War: The Campaign of Armageddon Begins and Ends Quickly

- A. (19:19) The Campaign of Armageddon ensues
 1. When did it begin?
 - a) Go back to Revelation 16:12-16
 - (1) (v12) The sixth angel: His bowl dried up the Euphrates River, "To Prepare the way for the Kings of the East."
 - (2) (v13-14) Out of the mouths of the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet came demonic spirits and "go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for battle on the great day of God Almighty."
 - (3) (v16) "Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon."
 - b) Kind of off the path, but no less important. If you remember in Revelation 17:12-18, the ten kings that ally with the Beast will destroy Babylon the Great (v16-17). **So**, it could be that these kings will destroy Babylon the Great on their way to gather with other kings and armies at Armageddon.

- c) Then, as someone observed, the destruction of Babylon the Great brought alarm and dread upon the rest of the world, as we see in Revelation 18!
 - 2. Where did it begin?
 - a) Revelation 16:16: "at a place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon."
- B. (19:20-21) The Campaign of Armageddon ends
 - 1. Almost as soon as it began!
 - a) No description of a great battle.
 - (1) The description of a great gathering of the enemy should make us think of God's opposition to the "lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life." (1 John 2:15-16)
 - (a) "God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble!" (1 Peter 5:5c)
 - b) But, the defeat was instantaneous!
 - (1) Captured: In one instant, not one day, not one hour, not one minute, but as soon as the battle is witnessed by John it says simply,
 - (a) "But the beast was captured along with the False Prophet."
 - (i) In case you have sympathy for the False Prophet, look at his main acts of wickedness:
 - (a) He performed miracles on behalf of the beast (to lead people astray.)
 - (b) He deluded people into taking the mark of the beast...
 - (c) and worshiping his image!
 - (2) Incarcerated: In one instant they are captured and incarcerated
 - (a) Both were thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.
- C. Almost instantaneously, as soon as it began the kings and armies were killed with the sword.
 - 1. What sword?
 - a) The sword that came out of the mouth of the Rider of the white horse.
 - 2. Then, the birds went to work devouring the dead bodies.
- D. Revelation 19 gives witness to the Second Coming of Christ!
 - 1. Heaven rejoices (as we saw in 19:1-10) as God is honored because of the victory of the Lamb of God, as the shout goes up in those verses concerning the fact that "He has avenged on her the blood of His servants." (19:2c)

2. Heaven rejoices that the Beast and False Prophet are removed, and the rebel armies are destroyed.
3. Heaven rejoices as the Father receives glory, the Lord Jesus Christ can take the seat on David's throne;
 - a) The earth restored
 - b) The Bride comes with Him to earth.
4. The wedding feast of the Lamb will begin and last 1,000 years!