

The Second Coming

What an exciting topic to talk about. Jesus is going to return to this world in the same way in which He left!

- **Acts 1:9–11**, *“Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.””*

Now last week we looked at the close of the Tribulation. The systems of the world were being judged. Often referred to as mystery Babylon – the false political and economical system, and the false religious system that were the platforms of the antichrist. And it’s answering all those questions of when justice will finally prevail.

Revelation 19:1–3, *“After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! ² For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.” ³ Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!”*

There is great rejoicing over the fact that God is finally judging evil. Time is up for the run of wickedness and corruption that has dominated so much of the world. God is stepping in and bringing an end to it. It’s great cause for some *Alleluia*’s to be shouted out.

Revelation 19:4-7, *“And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen! Alleluia!” ⁵ Then a voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!” ⁶ And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! ⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.””*

God has never ceased reigning. He’s always been on the throne. But He’s allowed the enemy to have time to give people a choice whether or not they want

to serve God or not. But now we see here the time when God will bring an end to every other way and establish His way as the only way. The Lord God Omnipotent (all powerful) reigns! And we are about to witness His power!

Notice, *the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.*

Who's the wife? The bride of Christ – the church - us! We've been with the Lord in heaven for 7 years while the Tribulation period unfolded.

- Just like at the Jewish Wedding the bride would emerge from the bridal chambers and join with the guests after those 7 days. And then they would partake in the marriage feast together.

Revelation 19:8–10, *"And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."⁹ Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."¹⁰ And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*

Here we see the church being clothed in fine linen. We're not dressed in what we provide, we're dressed in what is given to us. This linen is the *righteous acts of the saints*. Again, that's not to say that our works save us or make us righteous, rather our righteous act is believing in the One who makes us righteous – Jesus Christ!

I love what we read in Vs. 10: *the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*. In other words, prophecy is all about Jesus! People that say they don't like to focus on prophecy or emphasize prophecy is missing out on Jesus!

- "The very nature or purpose of prophecy is to testify of Jesus Christ and to bring glory to Him."¹

Now this is where it gets really good! This is what we've been waiting for.

Revelation 19:11–16, *"Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war."¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head*

¹ Walvoord, J. F. (1985). Revelation. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 975). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ *He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.* ¹⁴ *And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.* ¹⁵ *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.* ¹⁶ *And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS"*

We see Jesus emerging from heaven and making His victorious ascent to this world. We're at his side – *the armies in heaven*.

But we see some interesting depictions here: *He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood* (vs. 13). Now some might say this is the blood shed on the cross of Calvary. But when we begin to look at other Scriptures, and the scene unfolding here, this seems to be the blood of the enemies of God and the result of the battle of Armageddon. The battle of Armageddon is not so much a singular battle as it is more of a campaign. There is a series of events that are going to unfold at the Second Coming of Christ.

Now the word Armageddon gets a lot of play in our prophetic end times scenarios. Movies are made that depict this end of world dooms day situation like with Bruce Willis having to save the world from a meteor the size of Texas by drilling fast enough through it. Yet the word Armageddon is only found one time in the Bible (Revelation 16:16). And it comes from two words: Har Megiddo = Hill of Megiddo.

Megiddo means "place of troops" or "place of slaughter". It is located southeast of the modern port city of Haifa, in the plain of Esdraelon. This area, some 60 miles north of Jerusalem, and referred to at times as the Jezreel Valley, is about 14 miles wide and 20 miles long. It has been the grounds for many battles throughout history. In fact many say that more wars have been fought here than in any other place on earth.

- It was here that Barak defeated the armies of Canaan (Judges 5:19).
- Gideon met the Midianites here (Judges 7).
- Josiah, the ally of Babylon, was defeated and slain here (2 Kings 23:29).
- Sampson took on the Philistines in this place.
- Titus and the Roman armies used this place.
- British General Allenby also used it in defeating the Turkish armies in 1917.
- Napoleon called it "the most natural battlefield of the whole earth."

But remember, this last days battle of Armageddon is not so much going to be a battle as it's going to be a time for the Lord to reveal His power and control by wiping out these armies in a moment.

Let's discuss this campaign of Armageddon that is going to unfold at Jesus' return.

1. The assembling of the allies of the Antichrist (Joel 3:9-11; Revelation 16:12-16). [Read Revelation 16:12-16]
2. The destruction of Babylon (Isaiah 13-14; Jeremiah 50-51; Zechariah 5:5-11; Revelation 17-18). [Read Revelation 18:1-8]
3. The fall of Jerusalem (Micah 4:11-5:1; Zechariah 12:1-3; 14:1-2). [Read Zechariah 14:1-3]
4. The armies of the Antichrist at Bozrah (Jeremiah 49:13-14; Micah 2:12).
5. The national regeneration of Israel (Psalm 79:1-13; 80:1-19; Isaiah 64:1-12; Hosea 6:1-13; Joel 2:28-32; Zechariah 12:10; 13:7-9; Romans 11:25-27). [Read Zechariah 12:10-11]

There is coming a day when the Lord will once again call out to Israel, and draw them by His grace. And they will look unto Jesus, but this time it will be different. This time it will be with hearts of understanding that Jesus is their Messiah. They will realize that they had rejected Him, but He is indeed the Promised One!

- Zechariah 12:10 is very interesting in the original Hebrew, because there is an untranslated word after ***they will look on Me***... It's the Hebrew letters aleph and tau (א ט), the first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet. In other words, this verse could be read: *then they will look on Me, **the beginning and end**, or, **the Alpha and Omega**, whom they pierced.*
- Jews have a hard time with this passage, not only does it predict how their Messiah would die (long before that means of execution was practiced), but they wonder how could God be pierced? It's all explained in the first coming of Jesus - the One they rejected. The very way it has been foretold through Scripture:
 - **Psalm 22:16**, "...*They pierced My hands and My feet;*"
 - **Revelation 1:7**, "*Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.*"
- This is the time we'll see take place what Paul said in Romans 11:25-27.

6. The second coming of Jesus Christ (Isaiah 34:1-7; 63:1-3; Micah 2:12-13; Habakkuk 3:3). [Read Isaiah 63:1-3]
7. The battle from Bozrah to the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Jeremiah 49:20-22; Joel 3:12-13; Zechariah 14:12-15). [Read Joel 3:12-13]
8. The victory ascent upon the Mount of Olives (Joel 3:14-17; Zechariah 14:3-5; Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 16:17-21; 19:11-21). [Read Zechariah 14:3-5]
This is the place that Jesus ascended (Acts 1:9) and where the angel said He will return in like manner.

It's an exciting thing to sit there on the Mount of Olives and worship Jesus. To think this is the place He's going to touch down and appear again physically.

[show a picture of the sky from the Mt. of Olives]

This is the view, or at least the view people will be seeing when they look up to see Him coming. [show picture from Mt. Of Olives overlooking Jerusalem].

And when He comes it's gonna shake things up! This is going to be spectacular!

Now I believe when Jesus comes again He's going to follow that same route into the city as He did at His triumphal entry.

This is when He rode in from the Mount of Olives, down the Kidron Valley with people waving their palm branches and shouting Hosanna. He then entered in through the Eastern gate of the city into the Temple grounds.

But some will say there is a small problem with that scenario today. The Eastern Gate is sealed, and has been for centuries. [show picture]

This is where things get interesting:

- **Ezekiel 44:1–2**, *"Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary which faces toward the east, but it was shut. ² And the Lord said to me, "This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter by it, because the Lord God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut."*
- Prophecy teacher Dr. David Reagan gives some interesting insight on this prophecy:
"This prophecy in Ezekiel was partially fulfilled more than 400 years ago in 1517 when the Turks conquered Jerusalem under the leadership of Suleiman the Magnificent. He commanded that the city's ancient walls be rebuilt, and in the midst of this rebuilding project, for some unknown reason, he ordered that the Eastern Gate be sealed up with stones.
- Legends abound as to why Suleiman closed the [Eastern] Gate. The most believable one is that while the walls were being rebuilt, a rumor swept

Jerusalem that the Messiah was coming. Suleiman called together some Jewish rabbis and asked them to tell him about the Messiah. They described the Messiah as a great military leader who would be sent by God from the east. He would enter the Eastern Gate and liberate the city from foreign control.

- Suleiman then decided to put an end to Jewish hopes by ordering the Eastern Gate sealed. He also put a Muslim cemetery in front of the Gate, believing that no Jewish holy man would defile himself by walking through a Muslim cemetery. The Gate has remained sealed since that time. The Muslim cemetery still blocks the entrance. The old walled city has eight gates, and the Eastern Gate, and it alone, is sealed - just as prophesied in Ezekiel."

This is just like the enemy to think something like this is going to foil God's plans! You see when Jesus sets His foot upon the Mount of Olives, the place is going to get shaken up - very literally! The mountain is going to split in two! Whatever obstacle may be in the way - a sealed gate, a muslim cemetery - it's just gonna get blown up! It's going to be removed in a second.

I believe Psalm 24 is speaking of this day when the Lord comes into Jerusalem. And the gates are going to be opened up:

- **Psalm 24:7–10**, *"Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. ⁸ Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, The Lord mighty in battle. ⁹ Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. ¹⁰ Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah"*

Revelation 19:17–18, *"Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, ¹⁸ that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.""*

Here we're introduced to the second supper in Revelation 19. But you don't want to be a part of this one. Now, you have to be at one of these suppers. You'll either be at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, or you'll be at this Supper of the great God. Again, one leads to eternal life, the other leads to death.

This is the culmination of the battle of Armageddon. It's not so much a battle, because the nations are going to be led along by a satanic deception, and they're going to be brought to a great slaughter as Jesus simply speaks the word and they'll be done.

Revelation 19:19–21, *"And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh."*

The **lake of fire** is hell (Gehenna). And these two are the first residents of hell. Nobody is in hell today, not even Satan. Those that die apart from faith in God are not in a place of rest however, they are in Hades and it's a place of torment as seen in Luke 16:19-31. This is a temporary holding place until the great white throne judgment after the Millennium. We'll get into that next week.

Now that Christ has arrived – the Kingdom has come! The Redemption is realized. We'll talk about that next Sunday.