

## THE HOPE OF THE AGES

- when God created the earth, everything was perfect – no death, sorrow or sin
- but when Adam chose to disobey God, everything changed
- so here are thousands of years later in a world vastly different than its original creation
- sin, sorrow, pain, evil dominate the planet
- but, on the divine side, God has from the beginning promised hope to the hopeless
- it began in **Genesis 3.15** = And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”
- the hope of Job = **Job 19.25** = For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth;
- for 4,000 years the hope of the Jewish people was that the King would come and establish the Kingdom promised to David, spoken of by the prophets, longed for by the psalmists
- then, in the fulfillment of many prophecies, Jesus came, but was crucified as foretold by Daniel in **Daniel 9.26** = “And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it *shall be* with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.
- the people didn’t understand the difference between the first and second coming of the Messiah, and were confused, as expressed by the disciples on the road to Emmaus after the death and resurrection of Jesus in **Luke 24.21** = But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.
- even after spending 40 days with Jesus after His resurrection, the disciples were still asking about the kingdom. **Acts 1.6** = Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”
- but after His ascension into heaven, the hope of the redeemed has been renewed
  - **Acts 1.10-11** = And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 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.”
  - **Titus 2.11-14** = For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.
- today we come to the fulfillment of that hope

- this is what the book of Revelation is all about, and why those that read and heed the words of this prophecy are blessed (1.3)

### **(19.11-16) – THE COMING OF THE KING**

- in fulfillment of **Isaiah 25.9** = And it will be said in that day: “Behold, this is our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the Lord; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.” – the day has arrived!

- let’s stand and read together verses 11-16

- heaven opened = mentioned twice

→ First, at the rapture of the church in **Revelation 4.1** = After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.”

→ Now, for the coming of the King!

- riding on a white horse = the Roman symbol of a conquering King

- note the various descriptions of the King

- the armies of heaven = the saints

- a sharp sword = **Hebrews 4.12** = For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- King of Kings and Lord of Lords = play S.M. Lockridge from Calvary Baptist Church in San Diego from [this excerpt from a sermon](#) he gave in 1976.

### **(19.17-21) – ARMIES OF THE WORLD DEFEATED**

- The armies of the world have gathered at Armageddon – 200,000,000 from the Far east, the armies of the Antichrist from Europe and Asia, a confederation of armies from Africa and the Arab countries battling in the valley of Jezreel

- when they see heaven opened, they turn their attention to fight Christ, which is what Satan has wanted all along

- there really is no battle, and the wicked are destroyed

- the great supper where all the birds are gathered to eat the flesh of men and animals

→ When I read this I think of the 1963 movie “The Birds” which still sends chills up and down my spine!

- the Antichrist and the false prophet are immediately judged and thrown into the lake of fire

### **(20.1-3) – SATAN BOUND**

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### **(20.4-6) – THE MILLENNIUM**