

The Return of the Word of God

Revelation 19:11-21

- I. The music of Revelation 19
 - A. *“Joy to the World”*
 1. Psalm 98:6-9
 2. Revelation 19:11-21
 - B. *“Crown Him with Many Crowns”*
 1. Revelation 19:12
 - C. *“All Hail the Power of Jesus Name”*
 - D. *“Coming Again”*—John W. Peterson.
 - E. *“Battle Hymn of the Republic”*
 1. Revelation 19:15
- II. Two meals (Revelation 19)
 - A. The marriage supper of the Lamb—For all believers in Jesus Christ (Vs. 7-10).
 - B. The great supper of God—A funeral meal for clarion birds dining on the enemies of God (Vs. 17-18).
 - C. All people will eventually acknowledge Jesus as Lord (Philippians 2:9-11) When you acknowledge Him will determine which meal you attend.
 - D. The return of Jesus is in the context of the “battle” of Armageddon.
- III. Why does Jesus have to return to earth?
 - A. To fulfill the many promises of the Bible.
 - B. He must come back to judge the nations.
 - C. To judge Satan and remove him from this world.
 - D. Jesus must come back to set up His earthly kingdom.
 1. Then there will be true peace—Isaiah 11:6-9.
- IV. Christ’s return (Vs. 11-19).
 - A. He comes on a white horse (V. 11).

- B. His name is “Faithful and True”.
 - 1. His promises will not be broken, He will stay true to His word.
 - C. He comes in “righteousness” to judge and wage war (V. 11).
 - D. He comes wearing many crowns of a king (V.12).
 - E. His name is also “The Word of God”.
 - 1. John 1:1.
 - F. He comes with His army—the church (V.14).
 - G. He comes with a sharp sword coming from His mouth—A word (V.15).
 - H. He and His church will “rule with a rod of iron” – Revelation 2:26-27
 - I. The wrath of God is like a wine press crushing the grapes (V.15).
 - 1. Isaiah 63:1-6.
 - J. He has a third name—KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (V. 16).
- V. The great supper of God (Vs. 17-18).
- A. An angel announces the dinner—to the clarion birds (V.17).
 - B. The food—The flesh of Kings, commanders, armies, strong men, all men, the free and the slaves—All stations of life (V.18).
 - C. Armageddon (V. 19).
- VI. The judgment of the beast and the false prophet (Vs. 20-21).
- A. Thrown into the “Lake of Fire”.
 - 1. After the 1000 year millennial reign of Christ, Satan will join the beast and prophet in the lake of fire (20:10).
 - a. They will be **tormented day and night forever and ever.**
- VII. What do we do with all this?

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I am one of those who wants the Christmas tree down first thing the day after Christmas... the almost famous saying “*There’s nothing more over than Christmas*” has been often my mantra... so to sing *Joy to the World* today in April was a push...except...originally it really was not written as a Christmas hymn... Isaac Watts, inspired by Revelation 19 and Psalm 98...

Listen to the last three verses of Psalm 98...prophet words.

6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn

Make a loud shout before King Yahweh.

7 Let the sea roar, as well as its fullness,

The world and those who dwell in it.

8 Let the rivers clap their hands,

Let the mountains sing together for joy

9 Before Yahweh, for **He is coming to judge the earth;**

He will judge the world with righteousness

And the peoples with equity.

Add to that Revelation 19:11-21 it is no wonder Watts was inspired to write *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare him room,

And heaven and nature sing,

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;

Let men their songs employ;

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness,

And wonders of His love,

All that was not fulfilled at His birth...but it will be at His second coming...It’s very appropriate Revelation 19 has been the inspiration of so many great hymns...***Crown Him with Many Crowns***...based on 19:12 **on His head are many diadems... crowns....**

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon the throne.....

All Hail the Power of Jesus Name...

All hail the power of Jesus' name!

Let angels prostrate fall.

Bring forth the royal diadem,

and crown him Lord of all.

When I was high school... Christian music was going through some serious changes... the most prolific writer of the late 1900's was John W. Peterson... he wrote the once extremely popular "Coming Again" Joyful, happy song...flowed like a waltz... about the return of Jesus Christ...

Based on Acts 1:9-11, fulfilled in Revelation 19 after the resurrection and after the 40 days Jesus remained on earth... time for Him to leave, comforting His disciples...

9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.11 They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven." Peterson writes:

(1) Marvelous message we bring,

Glorious carol we sing,

Wonderful words of the King:

Jesus is coming again!

Coming again, coming again;

Maybe morning, maybe noon,

Maybe evening and maybe soon!

Coming again, coming again;

O what a wonderful day it will be—

Jesus is coming again!

So happy! So joyful... *O what a wonderful day it will be, Jesus is coming again!*...you feel like dancing... singing praise... **depending on who you are!**...

Jesus *is* coming again... that is a promise throughout Scripture... and that is very, very good news... **for those who have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior**...put the truth of Jesus's second coming next to another paramount truth in Scripture for all mankind:

Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore, God also highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven

and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Isn't that wonderful?...it is... **depending who you are!**

There are other songs based on Revelation 19 that are not so "happy"... we sang one...written by Julia Ward Howe during the Civil War... after taking a tour of a war torn Union encampment... seeing the carnage... the bloody bodies... was convinced that she was seeing the return of the judge... Jesus Christ...who treads the winepress...

*Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored
He hath loosed the fateful lightening of His terrible swift sword
His truth is marching on*

Based on verse 19: 15 describing the returning Lord Jesus Christ:

And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the wrath of the rage of God, the Almighty. *O what a wonderful day it will be?*

These words reveal that not everyone will find His return as a joyful, happy event...

We began looking at this magnificent chapter last week...I said there are two meals, two feasts... two banquets We saw in the first 10 verses *the Marriage Supper of the Lamb*...that great wedding feast for the greatest Bride groom Jesus Christ and His bride... the church.

The church... the *ecclesia*... the "called out ones"... all believers and followers in Jesus Christ will be attending this wonderful wedding feast... but what we see this morning is the other meal... a funeral meal...it's called *the Great Supper of God*...the enemies of Christ will be there... they will not dine... they will be the dinner for carrion... birds that feed on corpses...

This is a dinner you want to miss...

Also last week I mentioned that this chapter John *hears* things and *sees* things... verses 1 through 6 he hears four very loud *Hallelujahs*'...he hears an amazing worship service in heaven... now... in verses 11-21 John *sees* things coming out from heaven.

What John sees is "awesome"... how you view it **depends on who you are**...we can make this simple... there are two kinds of people... there are those who have made Jesus Christ master and Lord and Savior....

We read these verses and we can't wait for all this to happen... finally the entire world will acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord... no more conflicting ideologies errant philosophies, religious arguments...

But there are those who have not made Jesus Christ master and Lord...yes, they too will finally acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord... they will not be able to deny it... but it will be too late... if this is you... please listen to the rest of this message... because this is your future... if you don't come to Jesus.

Most of us Christians are anticipating His coming again but many of us don't realize the circumstances of His coming...His return takes place around an event everyone has heard of but few really know anything about it.... Armageddon.

Har-Megedon was first mentioned back in chapter 16... now we're there... most people when they think Armageddon (think a movie)...they see a cataclysmic war... missiles... tanks...weapons of mass destruction.. nations fighting against one another... nuclear explosions... a holocaust.

But none of that is what happens... oh... the nations have assembled... it says there will be **kings**...their **commanders** and **strong men**... armies... all gathered for war... but there are no bullets or bombs exploding...

Oh... there will be much bloodshed... but not from war implements.... this war will be won with a word....it's all here beginning at verse 11.

Before we get into this... a question was asked "*why does Jesus have to return to earth, the church is already up there in heaven with Him... Why doesn't Jesus just let the world rot away... leave everyone who is left on it to just wither away...why all this?*" So let me give you a few reasons... many, many reasons....but here are a few.

1. To fulfill the many promises in the Bible... many, many places in the Old Testament and many in the New Testament tell us that Jesus will return... Interesting... but next to the subject of "faith"... there is no subject covered in the Bible more than the second coming of Jesus Christ..

1845 references to the second coming in the Bible... 1547 of them in the Old Testament!...every time the birth of Jesus is referenced in the Old Testament...the second coming of Christ is 8 times... a ratio of 8 to 1!

If Jesus doesn't return... the Bible would be full of false promises... if this book is full of even one false promise... it's integrity is lost...He must come back to fulfill His promises...or His integrity is lost.

2. He must come back to judge the nations...God being 100% holy...100% good...100% righteous... God cannot turn His eyes away from sin... away from evil... He can't!...One of the greatest promises of God is that He will make all things right.

The world is broken by sin... it has been since Genesis 3... and the good news is that He will make it all new... so God cannot and will not ignore sin.

Our problem is that most of our sins SEEM to go unpunished... we sin daily and there seems to be no consequences... I wonder if things would be different if every time we sinned we got struck by a little lightening!... but we don't.... even our big sins seem to go unnoticed...and we think we have gotten away with it...

Ecclesiastes 8:11, the wise Solomon writes **Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil.**

Because often, if not most of the time, there are no instant consequences of our sin we think....actually we don't think much about it... but His second coming reminds us that not one sin will go unnoticed and all will be judged...and the penalty will be severe for those who have not come to Christ.

3. There must be judgement and removal of Satan from this world....Satan, allowed by sovereign God, usurped the throne of this world from the rightful owner Jesus Christ...Jesus has promised to take it back...

2nd Corinthians 4, Paul calls Satan the **“god of this age”**...and boy if that is not evident today... the results of his rule is crashing in on every aspect of our lives... and because of that people are full of anxieties, hopelessness and even despair...

Not one of our lives has escaped the consequences of Satan's earthly rule....The promise of Christ's return keeps hope alive! Satan will be bound for a 1000 years... then cast into the Lake of Fire for eternity.....that's really good nws.

4. Jesus must come back to set up His earthly kingdom...

Habakkuk 2:14 **proclaims that the knowledge of God's glory and righteousness will one day fill the entire earth, just as waters completely cover the sea.**

There is in the future a time when true prosperity and peace will cover the earth... this is the time Isaiah prophesied in Isaiah 11:6...mistakenly we say during this time when Jesus sets up His kingdom the Lion will lay down with the Lamb... it's not a lion... it's a wolf!

Isaiah 11:6-9

**⁶The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling^[a] together;
and a little child will lead them.**

**⁷The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,**

and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
⁸**The infant will play near the cobra's den,**
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.
⁹**They will neither harm nor destroy**
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea. [much like Habakkuk]

Isaiah 2:4 says **swords will be beaten into plowshares**...that will NEVER happen until Jesus returns... He must return!...so He will.... Back to Revelation 19....verse 1 is the first thing John sees in this chapter... from hearing to seeing...heaven opens up and comes down to earth.

Remember!...John is seeing this in the first century...2000 years ago... and he's seeing what will take place at least 21 centuries later...we are getting to see what has not yet taken place but will.

Verse 11—Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse...

The first thing John sees is a white horse... I have many commentaries on this book of Revelation... two that I do not own and I recommend you don't either is:

1. *The Book of Revelation Made Easy* There is nothing about Revelation that is easy!
2. *The Complete Idiots Guide to the Book of Revelation*...I know, that one is tempting to get!... I heard an excerpt from this book regarding 19:11... it said *It's a bird, it's a plane, it's..... a horse!*

John sees a white horse coming down from heaven... four of my commentaries use this verse to support their argument for animals being in heaven... possibly good news for you dog and cat lovers...

Look at **He who is sits** on this horse... He is called **faithful and true**...faithful to His promises... not one will be broken... true to His word... He will never be found untruthful... we need that assurance don't we?

Then look what He is coming to do... **in righteousness He judges and wages war**...especially in recent years... people have been reinventing Jesus... mostly to advance some social agenda... Jesus loves... He is compassionate... He is forgiving... He is *all inclusive*... the original author of DEI... *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*....more interested in equality than judging people...

Another way to say that is Jesus is more interested in equity than He is holiness...

If that is included in your theology of Jesus Christ... you need to go back to the Bible... He is righteous because He is holy... He judges those who are not... He wages war against all evil...all unrighteousness...He comes this time to earth as the judge...this is the second coming of Jesus Christ.

This is what John sees:

Verse 12—**His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems...** diadems are crowns... kingly crowns... remember in the Bible there are two crowns... the *stephanos* the crown or wreath given to the victor in a war or in some athletic game... these are diadems... crowns only kings wear... He is wearing many of them... ***crowns Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon the throne...***

All hail the power of Jesus name let angels prostrate fall,, bring forth the royal diadem...and crown Him Lord of all!!!

Verse 12b—**having a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself...** nobody knows the name but I have commentaries that do... no... **nobody knows but Jesus**... we do know what He is wearing...

Read verse 13

This is not His blood that is all over His robe...not this time... that was the first time as He shed His blood on the cross... it is the blood of His enemies... He comes as the judge... and judgement is bloody... the blood from His judgement will splatter on His robe... He has another name here... **His name is also called The Word of God.**

John like the name *The Word... Logos...* one of the most profound verses in the Bible is John 1:1 **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** It takes us further back than Genesis 1:1 **In the beginning God created...** Jesus was already there.... He always has been.

John 1:1 reveals Jesus as part of the Trinity... **The Word was *with* God...** and most amazing it reveals that Jesus IS God... **and the Word was God!**

In the Greek the Word is *logos*...it means more than just a “word”...it “embodies a conception or idea”... much deeper than just a word... here *logos* embodies the reality of God... Jesus embodies the “living God”.... [**The Bible embodies the written word, Jesus the living word**].

Read verse 14

Jesus doesn't come alone... His army is following behind Him... some have argued these are His angels... I find it beneficial to let Scripture interpret Scripture... it says here that this army is **clothed in fine linen white and clean...** seems like we've heard that before...

We don't have to go far back to get the identity of this army... verse 8

Read verses 7-8

Talking about the bride of Christ... the bride of Christ is the church... here the church, the saints are clothed in **fine linen, bright and clean...** the church... hopefully all of us included... will return with Jesus on this great day in the future....we too will be on white horses... so if you don't know how to ride horses you might want to take a few lessons!

Notice we're not armed?... Jesus is on His way to battle... we're going with Him... and we don't have even a pistol!... we look good... but we are basically harmless!...how does Jesus fight?

Read verse 15

The weapon Jesus uses comes out of His mouth... a sharp sword...this is not a metal blade that cuts... what cuts is His word... I think He strikes down the nations with one word... one suggested the word will be "*Enough*".... another suggested "*It is finished*"... the reign of Satan is over.....forever... finished!

He will rule them with a rod of iron...MacArther wrote *He will swiftly judge all sin and instantly put down all rebellion. All people will be required to conform to His law or face immediate judgement. Using the same imagery of ruling with a rod of iron, Jesus promised that believers would rule under Him in the coming kingdom.*

Revelation 2:26-27...remember the promise of Jesus to the believers...the "overcomers" in the church at Thyatira?...He promises this:

And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;27 and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received *authority* from My Father;

We will return with Jesus, and we will rule with Him...don't miss the last part of verse 19:15 **He treads the winepress of the wrath of the rage of God, the Almighty.**

*Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored
He hath loosed the fateful lightening of His terrible swift sword
His truth is marching on*

Nothing pretty here... the wrath of God is like a winepress that crushes the grapes... God's enemies... listen to Isaiah 63:1-6 hundreds of years before John's vision....it's a question then answer...

Question...

**Who is this who comes from Edom,
With garments of glowing colors from Bozrah,
This One who is majestic in His clothing,
Marching in the greatness of His power?**

Answer...

"It is I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."

Question...

**2 Why is Your clothing red,
And Your garments like the one who treads in the wine press?3**

Answer

**“I have trodden the wine trough alone,
And from the peoples there was no man with Me.
I also trod them in My anger
And trampled them in My wrath;
And their lifeblood is sprinkled on My garments,
And I stained all My clothes.**

**4 For the day of vengeance was in My heart,
And My year of redemption has come.**

**5 I looked, and there was no one to help,
And I was astonished, and there was no one to uphold;
So My own arm brought salvation to Me,
And My wrath upheld Me.6**

**I trod down the peoples in My anger
And made them drunk in My wrath,
And I brought down their lifeblood to the earth.”**

Remember the outcome of this trampling of the grapes in chapter 14:20?

**And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press,
up to the horses’ bridles, for a distance of 1,600 stadia....** About 200 miles.

Jesus has a third name

Read verse 16

Basileus...basileus...Kyrios Kyrios

No one else deserves this title... Jesus alone is Lord.

We arrive at the second meal... an angel announces dinner time... he doesn’t announce it to people but rather to birds... for they are the invited guests.

Read verses 17-18

Notice no one is exempt from this judgement... there is no discrimination... Kings... their commanders... the armies, the strong men... slaves and free men... all enemies of Christ which is all who have rejected Him.

All who do not get their hearts right with God... all who have rejected the Savior Jesus Christ...

Read verse 19

Armageddon...the battle where the victor Jesus Christ wins without a shot....and great news...

Read verses 20-21

The beast and his false prophet are thrown in the Lake of Fire... what happens there?... the next chapter...chapter 20...the end of the chapter is at the end of the 1000 yr. millennial reign of Jesus Christ...listen to this:

20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Just in case you recently have heard from some celebrities and preachers that no one goes to hell forever... that after a period of time they will just cease to exist... called “annihilation”...which I guess promotes a kinder gentler God... don’t miss this verse... **they will be tormented forever and ever.**

Every soul lives forever and ever... the question remains where will it live?

So... what do we do with all this?... we are eager for the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ... but as we have just seen... it’s not going to be a waltz... or a beautiful scene...so many times at the conclusion of these messages on Revelation... the “what do we do with it” points to a personal evaluation....WHERE AM I IN MY RELATION WITH JESUS CHRIST?

I mean... we’ve gone through the tribulation together... the scrolls, the trumpets and the bowls of judgement...and now Armageddon...how can we not ask

- Do I have a relationship with Jesus Christ?
- Have I been attending church because I like the idea?... or because I am genially a part of the “church”?
- I’m just not ready to commit my life to Christ yet...

This week I was in Tri-Cities for a meeting on “*Church Sending*”... put on by our North American Mission Board, SBC... *Church sending*... if the Great Commission in Matthew 28 is our mission as a church...**Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep all that I commanded you...**

Where are we in that?

The endgame is not to get people in church... it is to make disciples of Jesus Christ... **Marriage Supper of the Lamb attendees**...not food for the carrion.

We met in a classroom at this church... and on the front wall were the words of John 14:6... covering the whole wall... **Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me.**

I could not help but think about those very precise words from Jesus in relation to what we just went through in Revelation 19.... **NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER BUT THROUGH ME.**

And yet... countless vultures, the crows will be feasting on a sea of the flesh of those who didn't accept the way, the truth, the life of Jesus Christ... and then it will be too late... But NOW it is not too late...

I read Revelation 19 and can't help but evaluate what we...me and us as Christians should be doing... I get out my day planner.... Yes I still have a paper day planner... and I fill out the month... as if I know there will be a month.... And I fill it out with all sorts of things I think are important...embarrassed at how many things are in reality trivial pursuits.

James reminds us in James chapter 4

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit."14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. **You are a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.**

How can we read about the Great Supper of God and not think about the lost?... and what God has told us to do?....