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The Tribulation Draws to a Close

Revelation 19:17-20:3

I. Introduction

1. Judgment after judgment has rained down on earth. **Whether health, wealth, relationships, employment, or other, no part of life has been spared the ravages of destruction.** What is left of the world system, and it remains formidable in man's way of thinking, is arrayed against King Jesus.
2. The kings of the earth, the unholy trinity, and their armies have had access to the Bible (including the yet to be fulfilled prophecies) along with the historical record of God's creation through Babylon's downfall. **Yet, in what must bring GREAT SORROW to God Himself, people's hearts are so hardened and their pride so great as to lust for the empty promises of a life without Christ.**

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II. **Revelation 19:17-18: A Coming Feast at the Beast's Defeat**

1. The power and beauty of the angel against the magnificence of the sun represents God's power and holiness. **He (the angel) prophesies of the coming carnage...**a carnage so complete that all of man and his beasts at war with Jesus will be invited to a great feast.
2. This is a feast, unlike the marriage supper of the Lamb, you want to miss for all at war against Christ will be feasted upon. **What we read of in v18 is man's utter inability** - no matter the size of its war machine or its leadership, or the armies - **to overcome the Lamb of God...**both man's and Satan's power and intellect are woefully inadequate to overcome Jesus' justice as He cleans up man's mess.

III. **Revelation 19:19-21: The Beast and His Armies Defeated**

1. The beast's "welcome wagon" was ready for their visitors – Jesus and His holy army of witnesses. *They were as prepared as they ever could be and were determined to bring about the conflict between the heavenly hosts and the prince of the power of the Air we read in Eph 2.* Imagine being ready, the horses snorting, all the preparation is coming down to this final epic battle with the false prophet continuing to deceive the masses into supporting the beast and his master Satan.

A. Keeping in mind that the results were knowable and yet...like a bug to a bug light, they just could not help themselves. *They were united in their pride, their quest for power, their lust for sensuality, their covetousness for stuff, and their desire to live dishonoring lives to God.*

B. As in that day, the false prophets and others under Satan's sway say what they will, but truth lays bare their lies to any that have an ear to hear and respond to the Spirit of God as we read of the churches in **Revelation 2-3**.

2. Here is a current picture of the Jezreel Valley – this is where the battle of Armageddon will take place. *Keep in mind that it is here we were reading of at the end of Revelation 14 with blood running as high as horses' bridles.*

The second picture is a place of many of the key locations in this valley. I also note we will be here in our Israel trip next February.

3. Turn with me to **Matthew 24:27-30** as Christ narrates the unfolding of what we are reading here in Rev 19:

²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ²⁸ For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

²⁹ "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the

powers of the heavens will be shaken.³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. - Matthew 24:27–30

4. Verses 20-21 are anticlimactic in one sense. No shots fired and no battle even being fought, yet the beast and the false prophet are captured. Like their master as we shall soon-enough see, they are without the power needed to overcome Jesus...the word...the truth. The only one left of the unholy Trinity is Satan himself.

A. In another sense, the climax has been in view for all to see for all the generations since Christ's first coming. You see, in v 21, He destroys any standing against Him with the word of His mouth...truth. Even in the opening passages of Genesis, we see He created with His word, and in His earthly ministry, He: (a) destroyed a fig tree with a word, (b) calmed the tempest on the sea of Galilee, (c) cast demons out of a man and into a herd of pigs, and (d) brought many to salvation...all among His many miracles.

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IV. Revelation 20:1-3: Satan is Bound

There are several things of note in this passage, including:

1. Satan, as a created being, is not God's equal, but subject to God's authority. What's more, while we have God-given free will to make choices, we don't determine the consequences therein.
2. The bottomless pit or the abyss is the home of demons and unclean spirits.
3. The angel has the power to:
 - A. Lay ahold of Satan;
 - B. Bind Satan for 1,000 years;
 - C. Cast Satan in the abyss;
 - D. Lock Satan in the abyss;

- E. Set a seal upon Satan that he would not be able to deceive mankind for the 1,000 years of his captivity; and
- F. To set Satan free from his chains at the end of Christ's 1,000 year reign before the final judgment.

- 4. We note that 1,000 years is given in both the vision (v4-5) and the interpretation of the vision in v6. *These verses, along with others* **AND** with the reality of our everyday living experience, lead us to conclude that after Christ's Second Coming, Satan will be bound (*and that contrary to Amillennialism, he is decidedly NOT bound today*) and Christ will rule for what I believe is a literal 1,000 years.

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V. Closing: Another Look Back to See What is Ahead

- 1. Turn with me to Ps 2:1-12:

The Messiah's Triumph and Kingdom

- ¹ Why do the nations rage,
And the people plot a vain thing?
- ² *The kings of the earth set themselves,*
And the rulers take counsel together,
Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,
- ³ "Let us break Their bonds in pieces
And cast away Their cords from us."
- ⁴ *He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;*
The Lord shall hold them in derision.
- ⁵ Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,
And distress them in His deep displeasure:
- ⁶ *"Yet I have set My King*
On My holy hill of Zion."
- ⁷ "I will declare the decree:
The LORD has said to Me,
'You *are* My Son,
Today I have begotten You.
- ⁸ *Ask of Me, and I will give You*
The nations for Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.
- ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron;

You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' ”

¹⁰ Now therefore, be wise, O kings;
Be instructed, you judges of the earth.

¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear,
And rejoice with trembling.

¹² Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,
And you perish *in* the way,

When His wrath is kindled but a little.

Blessed *are* all those who put their trust in Him.¹

- Psalm 2:1–12

2. As I read and reread our passage for today, I was struck by how much the people in that day knew about God and had even experienced His wrath. Yet, they will continually choose to stand against Him. Wow! May that NOT be your heart!
3. This is the message of Revelation. God is truth, mercy, grace, and just. While He has the power and will to back up His demands for holiness and righteousness, He is also a forgiving God. The path is before you...one to the lake of fire separated from Christ and one to eternity with Him.

Revelation 19:17-20:3

Discussion Prompts

Don't be shy or embarrassed, this is a safe place to talk, learn, and grow. All of us should walk with an attitude of grace and Godly love in encouraging one another to contribute to our shared growth in the Lord.

For more discussion questions helping your faith to grow, please download the sermon documents typically posted the day after each sermon on the watch tab of our App or website.

1. How can today's passage be used to encourage people to come to or (if already saved) live out their faith in Jesus as Messiah?
2. Is believing in a literal 1,000 year reign of Christ essential to salvation or sanctification? Whether you said yes or no, discuss why. How can/should you discuss this topic if it comes up in a conversation?
3. The sermon notes that the armies were united in "pride, quest for power, lust for sensuality, covetousness for stuff, and the desire to live lives dishonoring to God". Which of these temptations is the most challenging in your own life?

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The Tribulation Draws to a Close

- I. Introduction**
- II. Revelation 19:17-18: A Coming Feast at the Beast's Defeat**
- III. Revelation 19:19-21: The Beast and His Armies Defeated**

Additional Scripture References: Re 2-3; Mt 24:27-30

- IV. Revelation 20:1-3: Satan is Bound**
- V. Closing: Another Look Back to See What is Ahead**

Additional Scripture References: Ps 2:1-12

5-Day Devotional

Revelation 19:17-20:3

The Tribulation Draws to a Close

Day 1: The Certainty of Christ's Victory

Reading: Re 19:11-21

Devotional: The armies of earth gather with confidence, yet their defeat is already written. This reveals a profound truth: no power, pride, or preparation can stand against the Word of God. Christ conquers not through military might but through truth itself. In our daily battles against deception, temptation, and worldly systems, we need not fear. The outcome is secure. Jesus has already won. This should transform how we face opposition—not with anxiety, but with confident faith. When culture, workplace pressures, or personal struggles seem overwhelming, remember the Beast's formidable army fell without a single blow being struck. Truth prevails. Walk in that assurance today, speaking truth in love, knowing Christ's victory is your victory.

Day 2: The Power of a Hardened Heart

Reading: Ps 2:1-12

Devotional: Why do people rage against God when His judgment is clearly foretold? Pride blinds even when truth is accessible. The kings of earth had Scripture, history, and countless warnings, yet chose rebellion. This mirrors our own tendencies to resist God's authority in areas we want to control. The passage calls us to wisdom: "Kiss the Son, lest He be angry." This isn't about cowering in fear but about surrendering in worship.

Examine your heart today. Where are you resisting God's lordship? What areas of life are you withholding from His authority? The blessed life flows from trust, not independence. Soften your heart before the King while grace remains available. His invitation to surrender is an invitation to life.

Day 3: Satan's Limitations vs. God's Sovereignty **Reading: Rev 20:1-3, Eph 2:1-10**

Devotional: An angel—not even Christ Himself—binds Satan for a thousand years. This reveals Satan's true position: a created being utterly subject to God's authority. While the enemy prowls today, seeking whom he may devour, he operates only within divine boundaries. You are not fighting an equal-opportunity battle against darkness. Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. Satan's power to deceive is real but limited. God determines the consequences, the timing, and the outcome. When spiritual warfare feels overwhelming, remember this scene. The enemy who seems so formidable will be chained by a single angel. Stand firm in Christ's authority. You fight from victory, not for it.

Day 4: The Feast You Want to Miss

Reading: Matt 24:27-31, Rev 19:17-18

Devotional: Two feasts bookend Revelation's climax: the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and the feast of carnage. One celebrates union with Christ; the other, the consequence of rejecting Him. This stark contrast eliminates middle ground. Every person is invited to one feast or destined for the other. The imagery is deliberately jarring because the stakes are eternal. God takes no pleasure in judgment, yet His holiness demands it. This should ignite both gratitude and urgency in us. Have you accepted the invitation to the Marriage Supper? Are you inviting others? Someone in your sphere of influence needs to hear about the choice before them. Love compels us to warn and invite. Today, thank God for your seat at His table, then extend His invitation to another.

Day 5: Choose Your Path Today

Reading: Ps 2:10-12, Jn 3:16-21

Devotional: "Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him." Revelation's message is ultimately about choice. Despite overwhelming evidence of God's power, justice, and coming judgment, people still choose rebellion. But today, while it is still called today, the path to life remains open. God is truth, mercy, grace, and justice—all perfectly balanced in Christ. The cross demonstrates His love; the empty tomb proves His power; and prophecy reveals His plan. You stand at the fork: one road leads to the lake of fire, separated from Christ; the other to eternity with Him. If you've chosen Christ, walk worthy of that calling today. If you're uncertain, don't delay. Kiss the Son. Bow before the King. Trust in Him. The blessed life begins now and extends into eternity.

Small Group Study Guide

Revelation 19:17-20:3

The Tribulation Draws to a Close

Opening Prayer: Begin your time together by asking God to open your hearts and minds to His Word, to help you understand His justice and mercy, and to respond in worship and obedience.

Opening Question: Share a time when you witnessed justice being served or truth prevailing over deception. How did that make you feel?

Sermon Recap:

This message explores the final defeat of Satan's forces at Christ's Second Coming. Despite having access to Scripture and historical evidence, the world's armies unite against Jesus in pride and rebellion. Christ defeats them not through battle, but through the power of His word—demonstrating His absolute authority. Satan is then bound for 1,000 years, confirming that Christ will reign on earth. The sermon concludes with a call to choose the path to eternity with Christ rather than separation from Him.

Key Scripture References:

- Revelation 19:17-21
- Revelation 20:1-3
- Matthew 24:27-30
- Psalm 2:1-12

Discussion Questions: Did the Holy Spirit prompt any questions with you? Start with those.

1. The Great Feast (Rev 19:17-18): What does the imagery of this feast reveal about the completeness of God's judgment? Why is this scene so sobering?
2. No Battle Necessary (Rev 19:19-21): The beast and false prophet are captured without a fight. What does this tell us about the true power of Christ compared to Satan's forces?
3. Satan Bound (Rev 20:1-3): What are the key details about Satan's binding? Why is it significant that an angel—not Christ Himself—binds Satan?

4. **Hardened Hearts:** The sermon notes that despite having access to Scripture and prophecy, people's hearts remain hardened. What hardens people's hearts today? What keeps your own heart tender toward God?
5. **Pride and Rebellion:** The armies unite in "pride, quest for power, lust for sensuality, covetousness for stuff, and desire to live dishonoring lives to God." Which of these temptations do you find most challenging in your own life?
6. **The Power of the Word:** Jesus defeats His enemies with "the word of His mouth"—truth. How have you experienced the power of God's Word in overcoming deception or spiritual battles in your life?
7. **Two Paths:** The sermon ends with a clear choice: "one to the lake of fire separated from Christ and one to eternity with Him." How does understanding the reality of final judgment affect how you live today?
8. **Sharing the Truth:** Knowing that people are choosing sides even now, how should this urgency affect our witness and evangelism efforts?
9. **God's Justice and Mercy:** How do you reconcile God's fierce judgment in these passages with His character as loving and merciful? Why are both attributes essential to who God is?

Key Takeaways:

1. **Truth Always Prevails:** No matter how powerful evil appears, Christ's word—truth itself—will ultimately triumph without effort.
2. **Satan is Not God's Equal:** Satan is a created being subject to God's authority. He can be bound by an angel and has no power to resist God's will.
3. **Rebellion is Futile:** Despite having full knowledge of God's Word and prophecy, human pride leads people to rebel against God—a warning for us today.
4. **The Choice is Clear:** Everyone faces the same decision: eternity with Christ or eternal separation from Him. There is no middle ground.
5. **God's Patience Has Limits:** While God is merciful and patient, there comes a time when judgment falls. Now is the day of salvation.

Practical Applications: Query the group for applications first...you may explore one or more of those.

1. Examine my heart for areas of pride, rebellion, or compromise that need to be surrendered to Christ.
2. Memorize a verse about Christ's victory or God's truth (consider Psalm 2:11-12 or Revelation 19:16).
3. Pray for someone who doesn't know Christ, asking God to soften their heart and give me an opportunity to share the gospel.
4. Study God's Word daily, recognizing its power to overcome deception and spiritual darkness in my life.
5. Worship Jesus as the conquering King, thanking Him for His victory over sin, death, and Satan.
6. Evaluate my priorities to ensure I'm not pursuing power, possessions, or pleasures over God's kingdom.

Closing Prayer Points:

- **Thanksgiving:** For Christ's ultimate victory and His invitation to spend eternity with Him
- **Confession:** Areas where pride, rebellion, or complacency have crept into our lives
- **Intercession:** For friends and family who don't know Christ, that their hearts would be softened
- **Commitment:** To live with urgency and purpose, knowing Christ's return is certain

Discussion Questions

Revelation 19:17-20:3

The Tribulation Draws to a Close

4. How does the certainty of Christ's victory over evil, as described in Revelation 19, challenge us to live differently in a world that often seems dominated by darkness and injustice?
5. What does the hardness of heart displayed by those who fight against Christ despite knowing the prophecies teach us about the nature of pride and spiritual blindness in our own lives?
6. The sermon describes the beast and false prophet being defeated without a battle even being fought, simply by the word of Christ's mouth. How does this demonstrate the power of truth over deception in spiritual warfare today?
7. In what ways might we be like those gathered at Armageddon, choosing our own way despite clear warnings and knowledge of God's truth?
8. How does understanding that Satan is a created being subject to God's authority, rather than God's equal, change our perspective on the spiritual battles we face daily?
9. The passage describes God experiencing great sorrow over hardened hearts that reject Him. How should this understanding of God's heart affect our prayers for those who are far from Christ?
10. Psalm 2 calls rulers to be wise and serve the Lord with fear. What does it mean in practical terms to serve God with both fear and rejoicing in our current cultural context?
11. The sermon emphasizes that while we have free will to make choices, we do not determine the consequences. How does this truth impact the way we approach decision-making and personal responsibility?
12. Considering that the false prophet continues to deceive masses even at the end, what safeguards can we put in place to ensure we are not deceived by false teaching in our own time?
13. The sermon concludes by presenting two paths: one to the lake of fire and one to eternity with Christ. How can we more effectively communicate this urgent reality to those around us with both truth and compassion?

Dinner Conversation Starters

Revelation 19:17-20:3

The Tribulation Draws to a Close

1. The Power of Words

The sermon mentions how Jesus overcomes with just the word of His mouth. How do you think the power of words affects our daily lives, both positively and negatively? Can you think of a time when words had a significant impact on you?

2. The Battle of Good Vs. Evil

In the sermon, there's a depiction of a great battle between the forces of good and evil. How do you see this struggle playing out in the world today, and what role do you think we have in it?

3. The Consequences of Pride

The hardened hearts and pride of people were emphasized as leading them away from Christ. How do you think pride influences our decisions, and what are some ways we can cultivate humility in our lives?

4. Free Will and Consequences

The passage discusses our God-given free will to make choices and the fact that we don't control the consequences. How can this idea influence the way we make decisions? Can you share a choice you made that had unexpected consequences?

5. A Vision of the Future

The sermon speaks about the Second Coming of Christ and a reign of peace. What do you imagine a world under Christ's rule would look like, and how can we work toward creating a more peaceful world in our communities today?

Family Conversation Guide for Children & Early Teens

Revelation 19:17-20:3

The Tribulation Draws to a Close

AGES 5-7: SIMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Listening to Instruction**: Just like the angel in the sermon, we need to listen and follow instructions from those who care for us.

What are some examples of instructions we need to follow at home or school? How does it feel to do the right thing?

2. **Choosing Right from Wrong**: Understand the importance of making good choices, like choosing kindness over anger.

How do you know if a choice is a good one? Can you think of a time you made a choice that helped someone feel happy?

3. **The Power of Words**: Learn how words can be powerful by speaking kindly to friends and family.

How can you use your words to make someone feel good today?

AGES 8-12: BUILDING UNDERSTANDING APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Positive Peer Influence**: Like the followers from the sermon who made poor choices, understand the importance of choosing friends who inspire you to do good.

How do you decide which friends to spend more time with? What qualities do you value in a friend?

2. **Dealing with Group Pressure**: Learn to stand up for what you believe is right, even if others around you are doing something wrong.

Have you ever felt pressured to do something you didn't want to? How did you handle it, and what can you do differently next time?

3. **Being Truthful**: Speak truthfully, showing honesty is important even when it may not be easy.

Why is it important to be truthful with your friends and family? Can you share a time when telling the truth made a big difference?

AGES 11-15: DEEPENING THE CONNECTION APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Discernment Online**: Like the false prophets spreading lies, understand the need for discernment in the information you find online.

How do you determine which information online is trustworthy and which might be misleading?

2. **Standing for Biblical Values**: Learn the importance of standing by your values in friendships and social media interactions.

Have you ever had to defend your values or beliefs with friends, even on social media? How did you handle it?

3. **Influence and Responsibility**: Recognize your role and influence in digital spaces and how your actions can impact others positively or negatively.

How can you be a positive influence online, and what are some ways to stand up against negative behavior in digital spaces?

Tips for Parents

- Be patient and listen: Give your child time to think and respond.
- Relate to everyday life: Use real-life examples and stories familiar to your child to make abstract concepts more tangible.
- Encourage questions: Let your son or daughter know it's okay to ask questions, even if things don't make sense right away.
- Share personal insights: Tell a personal story about a time you experienced these themes, adapting as needed for age appropriateness.

Family Conversation Guide for Gen Z

Revelation 19:17-20:3

The Tribulation Draws to a Close

1. Standing Firm in Faith

Biblical Application: Ephesians 6:13-14 encourages believers to put on the full armor of God and stand firm against challenges.

Scenario: In school or social groups, there may be pressure to conform to behaviors or beliefs that contradict your faith.

Action: Equip yourself with knowledge of Scripture to strengthen your resolve and stand firm against peer pressure.

Discussion Question: What challenges do you face in maintaining honesty within your relationships, and how can you ensure integrity guides your actions?

2. Online Truthfulness

Biblical Application: 1 Thessalonians 5:21 advises believers to test everything and hold on to what is good.

Scenario: In the digital realm, misinformation can spread quickly, challenging your ability to discern truth.

Action: Verify information before accepting or sharing it, using discernment to cultivate a healthy digital presence.

Discussion Question: How do you determine which digital content aligns with your faith, and what steps can you take to ensure truthfulness in your digital interactions?

3. Influencing Others in a Healthy Way

Biblical Application: Matthew 5:14-16 calls believers to be the light of the world, showcasing good deeds that glorify God.

Scenario: Online interactions can often become hostile or negative; your presence can either contribute to or alleviate this atmosphere.

Action: Use your digital platforms to spread positivity, encouragement, and hope, reflecting Christ-like behavior in all interactions.

Discussion Question: How can you intentionally use your digital platform to reflect God's love and truth, making a positive impact in online communities?