



03-08-19

In Like a Lamb, Out Like a Lion
Pt. 2, Anticipation

Happy Friday and welcome back to our theme for March, "In Like a Lamb, Out Like a Lion".

Those of us who have lived on the Central plains for any length of time are familiar with weather that can change drastically in just moments. In fact, it could be said in many of our nation's central states, "Don't like the weather? Wait 10 minutes!" And this adage is especially applicable in our spring and fall transition months, when the seasons bully each other with opposing air masses, temperature swings, and even damaging storms.

When I was a young boy I remember my grandmother and mother rehearsing another old adage in regard to March's reputation for transition. It was: "In like a lamb; out like a lion". The tradition held that if March came in mild and seasonable, then one could expect a wild and woolly exit into April. But if March came in with a tempest, then we could alternately expect a peaceful passing into April's showers. Now, who knows if this old saying had or has any validity. Most likely it was just something to say to make the speaker sound like an old sage!

But whether or not "In like a lamb; out like a lion" was predictive for March weather, it is absolutely accurate in a theological context! "In like a Lamb, and out like a Lion" perfectly describes the two Advents of Jesus Christ.

- **Jesus' First Physical Advent - The Christmas Story**

About 2000 years before the first advent (the birth) of Jesus Christ, the Patriarch Abraham reassured his son Isaac, *My son, God will provide himself a lamb...* (Genesis 22:8). And sure enough, about 2000 years later, John the Baptizer pointed at Jesus, and in fulfillment of Abraham's prophecy he proclaimed, *Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world* (John 1:29)!

Jesus came FIRST as The Savior, God's meek and mild sacrificial Lamb. Isaiah prophesied, *He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth* (Isaiah 53:7). Jesus came first to die as mankind's Substitute, but not to act as Judge. As Jesus Himself proclaimed, *And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world* (John 12:47).

At His First Advent, Jesus the Innocent Lamb humbled Himself before His own sinful creation. He willingly died a horrific death reserved for criminals, taking upon Himself the sin of the entire world, and suffering the wrath of the Father upon that sin... all in order to make mankind savable!

- **Jesus' Second Physical Advent - The Coming of the Judge!**

As we emphasized in last week's installment, this SAME Jesus is coming again, bodily, and visibly, hence the title of this week's installment is, "Anticipation". Born-again believers have been anticipating His return, even from that day He ascended from the Mt. of Olives, back TO the right hand of His Father.

But at this **Second** Advent, Jesus will come not as a meek and mild Lamb! He will come as THE King of kings and THE Lord of Lords. He will come as, *the LION of the tribe of Judah* (Revelation 5:5). Thankfully those who have repented and believed during this life, becoming eternally born-again Christians, will never have to experience Jesus as the LION!

Now... Jesus' Second Advent is a two-parter, so to speak, and many can be confused by this fact. For illustration purposes we will define these parts as **Second Coming, Phase 1** and **Second Coming, Phase 2**.

Second Coming, Phase 1 - The Resurrection and Rapture Event

The first phase of Jesus' Second Advent is what Christians call "the Resurrection and Rapture event". The God-Man Jesus Christ will return into the *air*, i.e. the atmosphere of this planet, to resurrect and instantly recreate perfect bodies for every person who has died IN the Lord (i.e., those who repented, believed, and were born again)... and THEN to change and catch up every living believer into the air to join those who have their new resurrection bodies. Paul uses two sections of Scripture to reveal this once unknown event.

He writes in 1Corinthians 15:51, 52,

*51 Behold, I shew you a **mystery** [a fact hitherto unknown or unrevealed by God to humankind... until now!];*

*We shall not all **sleep** [In this context "sleep" refers to biological death. Paul says that in that day of the trump of God and the shout of the archangel, every then-living born-again believer will escape physical death]...*

*but we shall all be **changed**, [this word “changed” refers to the metamorphosis of our current corruptible, sin-tainted biological body, back into a perfect, sin-free biological body... a body just like Jesus now owns! And then Paul goes on in v 52...]*

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

And the Apostle teaches more about the Resurrection and Rapture event in 1Thessalonians 4:13-18.

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep [Again, “sleep” refers to the laying down, the off-putting, the shedding of our sinful body in death and the word “them” refers to ALL born-again believers from Adam forward, i.e., those who have already died IN The Lord.]

*that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the **coming** of the Lord... [This coming is Phase 1 of the Second Coming; it’s Jesus coming into the air or atmosphere of our planet to resurrect and rapture His born-again believers.]*

*shall not prevent them which are asleep. [In this context, the word *prevent* means “to go before”. In other words, the departed dead will rise first, then we which remain will be changed and caught up, as is explained next in vv 16 and 17].*

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

So Phase 1 of the Second Advent of Christ is the Resurrection and Rapture Event. It’s the next big event on God’s eschatological timetable!

Second Coming, Phase 2 - Jesus Comes as The JUDGE!

After the period of *great tribulation* (Matthew 24:21; Revelation 7:14)—a time that God uses to judge this wicked world and finally to pour out His wrath on the seat (government) of the Beast (the Antichrist)(see Revelation 16:10)—Jesus will come physically and visibly back to this Earth WITH all of his redeemed! This account is detailed out in Revelation 19 and 20. Let’s read vv 19:11-16...

*And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14 And the **armies** which were in heaven [the word armies refers to ALL born-again believers] followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.*

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

So, just in case we've not made the connection yet, let's end this week's installment with a very clear point: friends, at this prophetic juncture, you want to be coming **BACK WITH JESUS!** You don't want to be one of the reception committee. The reception committee will consist of God-haters, wicked and rebellious men and women who will be in sheer terror, crying out, *...to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.*

Jesus has clearly warned, *Behold I come quickly* (suddenly) (Revelation 3:11; 22:7, 12). Don't be caught unaware!

God bless and consider?