



03-22-19

In Like a Lamb, Out Like a Lion
Pt. 4, Culmination

Happy Spring! Well, at least the calendar says “spring”, so let’s hope the weather cooperates! Our tempestuous month of March is drawing to a close and so is our theme for the month, “In Like a Lamb, Out Like a Lion”. We’ve taken this old saying, which purportedly describes March’s reputation for radical change, and used it as a theme to study the two Advents of the God-Man, Jesus Christ.

Jesus, the Messiah, came first as a meek and lowly Lamb. As Abraham prophesied, He came as God’s Lamb! This is the Christmas story. He came to die as a sin sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. He came to make human beings **rescuable**! At His first advent he came as the Suffering Servant and not as the expected King of kings and Lord of lords. As He 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).

But at Jesus’ Second Advent, just like March’s weather, there will be a radical change! At His next Coming Jesus will appear not as a gentle sacrificial servant (the Lamb), but as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5). He will come as the Judge of all the Earth (Genesis 18:25), and with great wrath... *to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him* (Jude 15). Jesus Christ’s Second Advent will culminate His work on this present earth, and it is this **culmination** that we will emphasize in this final installment.

This second appearance of Jesus the Messiah is graphically described starting in Revelation 19:11 and onward. John the Apostle details a wondrous scene. Let me read vv 11-15.

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 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 (Revelation 19:11-15).

Jesus will literally appear in our atmosphere at the end of a future 1260 day (or 3.5 year) period that the Scriptures call GREAT TRIBULATION. During this horrific future time of great tribulation—a period that Jesus Himself warned would be the most tempestuous, wicked, and calamitous period that this world has or will ever experience (Matthew 24:21)—God will permit the Antichrist, a.k.a., the Man of Sin, the Beast, who is Satan incarnate, to have free reign upon this planet. Satan’s hateful goal during this calamitous time will be first, to usurp the worship that is rightfully due Jesus the Son of God, and second, to destroy God’s chosen people—the entire Jewish race—and thereby thwart Jesus’ 1000-year kingdom and reign as the prophesied Son of David.

And, just as it seems the darkest, just as it seems that the Old Serpent is about to win (for he will, just like today, have a majority of followers), King Jesus will come back *...to judge and make war*; He will come as The Fierce and Wrathful Judge and Potentate, to culminate or wrap up this present Church Age dispensation. Jesus’ appearance will be a wondrous rescue for those comparative few who are still in the faith. These persecuted surviving believers will consist primarily of born again Jews who have believed during the 7-year Tribulation period. At the moment of Jesus’ appearance in the sky, Jerusalem and its faithful believing Jews are being threatened by a massive Gentile army staged northwest of Jerusalem in the Valley of Jezreel at a location called Har-Megiddo. King Jesus’ first act will be to annihilate this monstrous military force with the sword of his mouth (Revelation 19:15), i.e., literally by speaking.

Next, King Jesus will arrest two human men: the Antichrist and his False Prophet, a man that the late Dr. Adrian Rogers called “the Antichrist’s sinister minister of propaganda”. These two will be cast alive into the Lake of Fire. Then, a great and powerful angel will come down from Heaven with the keys of the Bottomless Pit (the Abyss or Hell). This angel (perhaps Michael) will arrest and chain Satan (Lucifer), and cast him into that bottomless pit (Hell) for the duration of Jesus’ 1000-year kingdom.

At that point, the Bible indicates that King Jesus will hold two separation tribunals. The purpose of these tribunals will be to separate the surviving unbelieving mortals from the surviving born-again mortals. There seems to be a separation judgment for non-Jews, called by Jesus the judgment of the nations or *ethos*, described in Matthew 25:31-46, followed by the regathering of all Jews from across the globe in fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets. These regathered Jews will then stand before King Jesus in their own separation tribunal described in Ezekiel 20:33-38 and Malachi 3:2-5. God-haters from both tribunals will join their “god”, the Antichrist, in that eternal abode called the Lake of Fire!

Believing Jews will then fulfill the Feast of Atonement (Yom Kippur) by repenting and restoring fellowship with their Savior, and finally the Feast of Tabernacles, which will likely inaugurate the literal 1000-year reign of Jesus Christ, the Son of David. Jesus will rule this literal earth with a

rod of iron for 1000 years, from the new world capital, Jerusalem. At the end of the 1000 years Satan is released from his imprisonment in the Abyss for a short time, and he will gather together all unbelieving mortals who have rebelled against King Jesus during that Kingdom period. Satan and these rebels will again surround and threaten the camp of the saints (born-again believers), which is Jerusalem. But God will send literal fire from heaven and consume all of this great host! This is Satan's final act of rebellion. He and his allies will be cast into the Lake of Fire where the Antichrist and False Prophet are already, and there they all will be tormented day and night forever and forever (Revelation 19:7-10).

Then we have the final acts of King Jesus. There will be a resurrection and judgment of all God-rejectors, called in the Scripture the Great White Throne judgment. Every God-rejector from Cain until the end will be resurrected from their graves, given a permanent body, stood before King Jesus to receive their sentences. And then they will be cast into that same Lake of Fire to be with their "father" Satan and all the un-holy angels. And then, an amazing and glorious Re-Creation!

This present sin-cursed universe will *melt with fervent heat*; it will be *dissolved* (2Peter 3:10-12), and Creator Jesus will form a New Heaven and a New Earth (Revelation 21:1). The capital of the New Earth will be New Jerusalem, a huge city foursquare, which literally floats down from God out of Heaven. That city will be literally lighted by the Shekinah glory of King Jesus, and the redeemed saints that joyfully inhabit the New Earth will pour into that city by day and night to worship the King of Glory. And so shall we ever be with the Lord (1Thessalonians 4:17).

As the old hymn proclaims, "Oh that will be glory... for me". ¹

When all my labors and trials are o'er,
And I am safe on that beautiful shore,
Just to be near the dear Lord I adore,
Will through the ages be glory for me.

Refrain:

Oh, that will be glory for me,
Glory for me, glory for me,
When by His grace I shall look on His face,
That will be glory, be glory for me.

When, by the gift of His infinite grace,
I am accorded in heaven a place,
Just to be there and to look on His face,
Will through the ages be glory for me.

Friends will be there I have loved long ago;
Joy like a river around me will flow;
Yet just a smile from my Savior, I know,

¹ Oh, That Will be Glory. Lyrics and music by Charles H. Gabriel. First published in 1900.

Will through the ages be glory for me.

God bless and consider!