

Revelation 19:11-21

The Second Coming of Christ

Introduction

This portion of chapter 19 covers the Second Coming of Christ. This is not only the high point of the book of Revelation, but of history. The Bible refers to the Second Coming of Christ at least 1,845 times. The New Testament refers to it 318 times. In the Old Testament, 17 books clearly refer to this event. A key reference is found in Zech. 14:3-4.

As we consider the Second Coming, it must be pointed out that the Second Coming and the Rapture are two different events, separated by at least 7 years. Many people today confuse these two events. The following are some of the major characteristics of each event.

The Rapture

Christ comes for the Saints
Christ comes in the air
Christ comes in blessing
Christ returns 7 years later

The 2nd Coming

Christ comes with the Saints
Christ sets foot on the Mt. of Olives
Christ comes in judgment
Christ returns at this time to reign

I. The Appearance of Christ, v11-13

The Rapture took place in "a moment, in the twinkling of an eye." It was not seen by the world. This time the entire world will see the appearance of Christ. Heaven will open and the armies of Heaven will follow the Lord out.

A. His Titles - There are three titles for Jesus in these verses.

1. Faithful - This name lets us know that Jesus will never fail or let us down. We may not understand His purpose of His timing, but He will always remain faithful, 1Co. 1:9, Th. 5:24, 2Th. 3:3, Heb. 2:17.

2. True - Jesus is true. His word is truth, Jn. 17. The only source of truth in the universe is Jesus.

3. The Word of God - We find in John 1:1-3, that Jesus is the living Word. The Word of God will never fail, because it is Jesus. The word can be trusted because it is Jesus. He is the living word that will never pass away.

B. His Actions - In the Second coming, Jesus has two purposes. To judge and to make war. This is an act of purifying the earth. His eyes that are flames of fire, carries the idea of purification. This is a great contrast to the first time Jesus came, when he preached grace and truth, Jn. 1:17.

II. The Actions of Christ, v14-16/19-21

A. A Description of His actions - Scripture gives three distinct actions of Christ as He returns.

1. He leads Armies - These armies do not fight, Jesus does it all, but He is the great leader.

2. He rules - He will "smite" and "rule with a rod of iron." These picture an absolute rule. There will be no "bending the rules." When Jesus speaks, obedience is not optional, it is necessary.

3. He executes judgment - Those who rejected Christ during the Tribulation will die. God has given them many opportunities to repent, but they rejected Him. Jesus will execute righteous judgment.

B. The Destruction of Antichrist and his followers - The Antichrist will have gathered the greatest army ever seen. Jesus will destroy it by simply speaking. His word will cut them down. The Antichrist and the False Prophet will then be cast into hell alive.

III. The Announcement by the Angel, v17-18

Again we see the prominence of angels in the book of Revelation. This angel commands the fowls to come and prepare to eat the flesh of the dead. He is letting the world know that Jesus is going to be completely victorious. There will be a literal feast of flesh for these birds after the victory of Jesus in this battle. There will be no doubt that Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords!