

Session 14 The Forerunner Message in Revelation 19-20

- I. **JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM AND THE MILLENNIUM (REV. 19-20)**
- A. The fifth chronological section in the book of Revelation describes Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as King reigning together with the saints over His millennial kingdom (19:11-20:15). Immediately before this, Jesus will capture the Antichrist and kill all the kings of the earth who attacked Jerusalem (19:11-21). Satan will be cast into prison (20:1-3), and the saints will reign with Jesus for 1,000 years (20:4-6). After 1,000 years, Satan will be released from prison to test the nations (20:7-10). Then the Great White Throne judgment of unbelievers will occur (20:11-15). After that the Lord will establish the new earth, and the Father's throne will come to earth (21:1-8).
- B. Here, we see the greatest hope and dream that has ever entered the human heart. We need to feed our spirit on this divine information. It is not enough to have only a vague sense that "we win."
- C. The 7th bowl judgment in 16:17-21 occurs immediately before the events described in 19:11-21 and releases the most severe earthquake in history, followed by 100-lb. hailstones. Soon after this, Jesus will march into Jerusalem as King (19:11-21) after destroying Antichrist's armies.
- D. **Outline of Revelation 19** (the fifth chronological section)
- 19:11-16** Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (19:11-16)
19:17-21 Jesus will defeat the Antichrist in the Battle of Jerusalem (19:17-21)
- E. **Outline of Revelation 20** (the fifth chronological section continued)
- 20:1-3** Satan will be cast into prison for 1,000 years (20:1-3)
20:4-6 The saints given governmental leadership over the earth (20:4-6)
20:7-10 Satan is released after 1,000 years (20:7-10)
20:11-15 The Great White Throne judgment (20:11-15)
- F. Revelation 19 gives us important insights into the beauty of Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge (Isa. 33:17). He is a King with power, a Bridegroom with desire for relationship, and a Judge with zeal to remove all that hinders love. Jesus' beauty will be openly manifested before all the nations. As we meditate on what He will do at that time, we see His heart behind the events that will occur.
- ²*In that day the Branch of the LORD [Jesus] shall be beautiful and glorious. (Isa. 4:2)*
- ¹⁷*Your eyes will see the King in His beauty... (Isa. 33:17)*
- G. In His activity at the Armageddon campaign in 19:11-21, Jesus will be seen as the One fairer, or more beautiful, than all others (Ps. 45:2-4). The Spirit is emphasizing this theme to God's people. Hebrews 1:8-9 recognizes the Father as the One speaking to Jesus in Psalm 45.
- ²*You are fairer [more beautiful] than the sons of men; grace [power] is poured upon Your lips...*
³*Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One...*⁴*In Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness...*⁵*The peoples [nations] fall under You...*⁶*Your throne, O God [Jesus], is forever...*⁷*You love righteousness and hate wickedness... (Ps. 45:2-6)*

II. THE BATTLE FOR JERUSALEM ENDS THE ARMAGEDDON CAMPAIGN

- A. The context here is the battle of Jerusalem. It is popular to call this *Armageddon*. Armageddon is the military staging area in northern Israel where armies gather to be mobilized for the battle around Jerusalem, though not obvious in 19:11-21. The book of Revelation is understood best when read in context to the rest of God's Word. There is no one place in Scripture with the entire storyline.
- B. ***The battle of Jerusalem:*** All the nations will gather against Jerusalem (Joel 3:2, 12; Zech. 12:3; 14:2; Zeph. 3:8; cf. Ezek. 38:4; 39:2; Rev. 16:14). God's end-time plan is "Jerusalem-centric."
²I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem...³The LORD will go forth and fight against those nations...⁵The LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You. (Zech. 14:2-5)
- C. The battle for Jerusalem is a spiritual, political, and military conflict for the control of Jerusalem, and the control of Jerusalem is a major issue related to the second coming of Christ. The devil wants to control Jerusalem and stop its leaders from receiving Jesus as their Messiah. Jesus told the leaders of Jerusalem that they would not see Him until they received Him as Messiah (Mt. 23:39).
- D. Isaiah described Jesus engaging in the battle as He marches to Jerusalem from Edom—modern-day Jordan (Isa. 62:10-63:6). He described Jesus as trampling the nations as one treads grapes in a winepress (14:20; 19:15; cf. Isa. 63:3; Joel 3:13). John draws from Isaiah 63:1-6 in 19:15.
¹Who is this who comes from Edom [Jordan]...this One [Jesus] who is glorious...traveling in the greatness of His strength?...²Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? ³"I have trodden the winepress...and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes." (Isa. 63:1-3)
¹²You marched through the land in indignation; You trampled the nations in anger. (Hab. 3:12)

III. JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM (REV. 19:11-16)

- A. Jesus travels with His army (19:11-16) as He engages in the battle around Jerusalem (19:19-21).
¹¹Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹²His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns...¹³He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood... ¹⁴The armies in heaven...followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations...He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS...¹⁹I saw the beast [Antichrist], the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him [Jesus]...and against His army. ²⁰Then the beast was captured...²¹And the rest were killed with the sword... (Rev. 19:11-21)
- B. ***Heaven opened:*** John saw Jesus in the sky and then on the earth marching to Jerusalem (from Edom). The open heaven has several applications including Jesus' army (of saints and angels) being in the sky Jesus and with visibility of the earth and participating in the battle occurring on earth.
- C. ***Faithful and true:*** He is faithful to fulfill all of His promises and is true to His loving nature in all that He does. Even in battle, Jesus will be faithful to do all *with* love and *for* justice.

- D. **He judges:** Jesus will intervene with righteous judgments which will include establishing new leaders, laws, and policies that help the poor and oppressed (Isa. 11:4).
- E. **He makes war:** Jesus will wage a just and righteous war against wickedness and oppression. The most extreme judgment in history will occur in context to the largest, most violent battle in history. The “*Jesus of Christmas*” will bring peace and goodwill to men by waging a just war against evil as the “*Jesus of Armageddon*.” He will use war to establish peace.
- F. John saw Jesus’ eyes, His many crowns, and His mysterious name (19:12).

¹²His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. (Rev. 19:12)

1. **Eyes of fire** (19:12; cf. 1:14; 2:18): Jesus’ eyes speak of His zealous, holy love and perfect knowledge. Eyes of fire speak of His burning heart of desire for His people. He has perfect insight, seeing behind every plan and façade of evil men.
 2. **Many crowns:** Jesus’ crowns speak of His past and future victories and successful leadership. This is not His first battle. He is not a novice but is skilled at war and gaining the victory.
 3. **A name no one knew:** Some of His activity at this time will be totally unexpected. New facets of His name or personality (19:12, 13, 16) will be revealed at the battle of Jerusalem.
- G. Jesus’ robe will be stained with the blood of His enemies as He fulfills God’s Word (19:13).
- ¹³He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called the Word of God. (Rev. 19:13)**
1. **Robe dipped in blood:** His robe (long outer garment) will be splattered with the blood of His enemies during His march to Jerusalem from Edom (Isa. 63:3). He will be up close and personal in the battle. The blood on His clothing is a statement of love. He is not ashamed of shedding blood while rescuing the nations from evil. Most commentators agree that the blood on His robe in this context is not a reference to His blood that was shed on the cross.
 2. **His name is called the Word of God:** All that Jesus does in the battle of Jerusalem is true to Scripture. His goals, motives, and attitudes in this battle will be consistent with Scripture.
- H. The armies of heaven will follow Jesus on white horses when He returns to Jerusalem (19:14). Jesus desires partnership with His people, even as He engages in this war to take over the nations.

¹⁴The armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. (Rev. 19:14)

1. **The armies in heaven:** Jesus will enter Jerusalem with a vast army of resurrected saints and angels behind Him (17:14). Raptured believers will *always* be with Jesus (1 Thes. 4:17). Angels will come with Him (Mt. 13:41; 16:27; 24:31; Mk. 8:38; Lk. 9:26; 2 Thes. 1:7).

¹⁴...God will bring with Him [Jesus] those who sleep [in death] in Jesus...¹⁷Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up [raptured] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. (1 Thes. 4:14, 17)

¹⁴...those who are with Him [Jesus’ coming] are called, chosen, and faithful. (Rev. 17:14)

2. ***Clothed in fine linen, white and clean:*** These armies will be dressed in fine linen, white and clean (19:14). This clothing is very similar to the saints in their bridal attire as seen in 19:7-8 where it clarifies that the righteous decisions of the saints will be reflected in their garments.
⁸And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (Rev. 19:8)
3. ***Followed Him on white horses:*** There are real horses in the heavenly realm. Elijah, Elisha, and Zechariah saw horses with heavenly chariots (2 Kgs. 2:11; 6:17; Zech. 6:1-5). The saints will ride horses (19:14). The horses that Jesus and His army travel on in this battle are not symbolic but are heavenly horses with supernatural bodies that can travel in the sky.

I. Jesus' actions in judging the nations will include striking them with the sword of His mouth, ruling them with a rod of iron, and treading the winepress of God's wrath (19:15).

¹⁵Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of...wrath... (Rev. 19:15)

1. ***Out of His mouth goes a sharp sword:*** Jesus will speak the commands that release the sword.
2. ***He strikes the nations:*** He will strike and destroy the resources of the Antichrist's empire.
3. ***He rules with a rod of iron:*** Jesus' rule over the nations will include first dashing them to pieces with His rod of iron (2:27; 12:5; 19:15), according to David's prophecy (Ps. 2:9).
⁹You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces... (Ps. 2:9)
4. ***He treads the winepress of wrath:*** His "winepress" includes killing the Antichrist's armies surrounding Jerusalem (19:21; cf. Ps. 110:5-6; Isa. 24:6, 21-21; 66:24).

J. ***His name is King of kings:*** All the nations on earth will receive Jesus as the King of kings (19:16). In the Millennium, all the kings on earth will be saved, worship Jesus, and base their national governments on the Scripture (21:24; cf. Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 62:2).

¹⁶He has on His robe and His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Rev. 19:16)

IV. JESUS WILL DEFEAT THE ANTICHRIST IN THE BATTLE OF JERUSALEM (REV. 19:17-21)

A. Jesus will gather the birds for a great supper, literally feasting on the Antichrist's army (19:17-18).

¹⁷I saw an angel...and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, ¹⁸that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses..." (Rev. 19:17-18)

B. ***The supper of the great God:*** The birds will be gathered to eat the flesh of the Antichrist's army. Ezekiel's prophecy calls this supper: "God's meal" (Ezek. 39:17-29).

¹⁷Speak to every sort of bird... "Assemble yourselves...to My sacrificial meal...on the mountains of Israel, that...¹⁸you shall eat the flesh of the mighty, drink the blood of the princes... (Ezek. 39:17-18)

- C. **Flesh of horses:** The birds will eat the horses. God will strike the horses of the Antichrist's armies with confusion, blindness, and plague (Zech. 12:4; 14:15). Einstein said, "I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones."
⁴I will strike every horse with confusion...and...with blindness. (Zech. 12:4)
¹²This shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet...¹⁵Such also shall be the plague on the horse and the mule, on the camel and the donkey. (Zech. 14:12-15)
- D. The Antichrist, all the kings of the earth, and their armies will gather together to make war against Jesus and His army (19:19; cf. Joel 3:2, 12; Zech. 14:2; Zeph. 3:8). Here, we see the global scope of the hostility and why Jesus' violent action against them is necessary.
¹⁹And I saw the beast [Antichrist], the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him [Jesus] who sat on the horse and against His army. (Rev. 19:19)
- E. The Antichrist's defeat, in the sight of all nations, assures us of victory (19:20). Jesus will capture the Antichrist and the False Prophet and then cast them alive into the lake of fire.
²⁰Then the beast [the Antichrist] was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire ... (Rev. 19:20)
- F. All the kings and their armies will be killed in this battle (19:21; Ps. 110:5-6; Isa. 24:6, 21-21; 66:24). Jesus attends to every detail, even the cleanup of the dead. It will take 7 months to bury the bones of the dead (Ezek. 39:11-16) and 7 years to burn the weapons (Ezek. 39:9).
²¹And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh. (Rev. 19:21)
1. David prophesied the Messiah would execute the evil leaders of the nations (Ps. 110:5-6) and warned the kings of the earth to honor Messiah as their King (Ps. 2:12).
⁵He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath...⁶He shall fill the places with dead bodies. He shall execute the heads of many countries. (Ps. 110:5-6)
 2. **The sword:** There are passages where He has the sword in His hand as the psalmist cried, "Gird Your sword" (Ps. 45:3). The sword which proceeds from His mouth speaks of Jesus giving commands to His army to use their swords. The angels are described as using weapons like swords (Gen. 3:24; 1 Chr. 21:14-16; Ezek. 9:1-6)
- G. The pinnacle of the second-coming, royal procession will be Jesus' reentry into Jerusalem to be officially received by the governmental leaders of Israel in Jerusalem as their Messianic King. The gates of Jerusalem will be opened in context to Israel receiving Jesus as their King (Ps. 24:7).
³⁹I say to you [governmental leaders in Jerusalem], you shall see Me no more till you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!" (Mt. 23:39)
⁷Lift up your heads, O you gates [of Jerusalem]...the King of glory shall come in. ⁸Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty...mighty in battle [Armageddon]. (Ps. 24:7-8)

V. SATAN WILL BE CAST INTO PRISON FOR 1,000 YEARS (REV. 20:1-3)

- A. Satan will be cast into the prison of the bottomless pit for 1,000 years (20:1-3).

¹I saw an angel...having the key to the bottomless pit...²He laid hold of...Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³and he cast him into the bottomless pit.... (Rev. 20:1-3)

- B. Demonic spirits and evil kings are also imprisoned in this pit (Isa. 24:21-22).

²¹The Lord will punish on high the host of exalted ones [demonic principalities, etc.], and on the earth the kings of the earth. ²²They will be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and will be shut up in the prison [bottomless pit]; after many days [1,000 years] they will be punished [in the lake of fire]. (Isa. 24:21-22)

VI. THE SAINTS GIVEN GOVERNMENTAL LEADERSHIP OVER THE EARTH (REV. 20:4-6)

- A. The saints will be given governmental leadership of the earth for 1,000 years (20:4-6). The saints of 19:14, 19 are the subject of the phrase: “they sat” on thrones (20:4).

⁴I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus...And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years...⁶They shall be priests...and shall reign with Him... (Rev. 20:4-6)

- B. ***Those beheaded:*** John highlighted martyrs, but Scripture does not limit those who reign on thrones only to martyrs. Jesus will govern the earth in partnership with resurrected saints (2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5; Mt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12).

- C. ***They shall be priests:*** Resurrected saints will function as priests and kings (Rev. 5:10).

VII. SATAN RELEASED AFTER 1,000 YEARS AND THE GREAT WHITE THRONE (REV. 20:7-15)

- A. The Lord will allow Satan—the “snake” of Genesis 3—back into the garden to offer the human race independence from God in order to reveal their heart. This will show God’s justice in judgment.

⁷Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸and will go out to deceive the nations...Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle...⁹And fire came down from God...and devoured them. ¹⁰The devil...was cast into the lake of fire... (Rev. 20:7-10)

- B. God will openly manifest the truth about the *depth of human depravity* and about Satan as being *incurably evil*. Satan again deceives the nations, revealing he was not rehabilitated or changed.

- C. The Great White Throne is the final judgment of God’s enemies (20:11-15). God will judge unbelievers by their works that are carefully and accurately recorded in the books in heaven.

¹¹I saw a great white throne...¹²I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened...The dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books...¹⁵Anyone not...in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:11-15)

- D. ***The lake of fire:*** The lake of fire is outer darkness (Mt. 8:12; 22:13; 25:30), and those who are there wail and gnash their teeth (Mt. 8:12; 13:42, 50). God responds to eternal sin with eternal judgment.