

Week – 9 The Coming of Christ—19:10-19:21

1. Jesus Returns—19:10-16

Back to the future? – We picked up here in Chapter 19 with future events. The entire book of Revelation has been building to this – the defeat of evil.

One scholar has pointed out an interesting literary technique – the forces of evil are defeated in reverse order in which they appear: Babylon/Rome is defeated (first appearing Ch. 16), the two beasts are defeated (first appearing in Ch. 13) then the dragon is defeated (first appearing in Ch. 12).

Is this Jesus' second or third return? (See separate notes on Rapture and Reign)

- a. Christ appears on a white horse.
 - i. This is not the same white horse figure depicted in Ch. 6 – that rider is one of the plagues
- b. He is called Faithful and True – reminiscent of 3:14 – “The faithful and true witness.”
- c. He wears many diadems – too many to count. He is “King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”
- d. He has a name written upon Him that no one knows except Him - there is a mystery about Jesus that is beyond human understanding, beyond human control.
 - i. Ancients thought that by knowing a spirits name, one had control over that spirit.
- e. His robe is dipped in blood – this is taken from Isaiah 63:1-6.
 - i. Much discussion about this blood. Barclay and MacArthur says it is the blood of his enemies. MacArthur sites Isaiah 63 as evidence of this and based on that link alone, it is plausible.
 - ii. There are compelling arguments that it is the blood of the cross.
 1. The “battle” has not yet begun, how can He have blood before the battle?
 2. The blood is reminder that the conquering Christ is a suffering Christ. He defeats His enemies by **His** death.
 3. Jesus' own words echo here: “You have heard it said, love your friends and hate your enemies, but I say love your enemies too.” (Matthew 5:43-44a)

4. Jesus conquers not by shedding his enemies blood but by shedding his own blood.
- f. His name is "The Word of God" – while we are immediately reminded of the John 1 and 1 John 1, a better parallel is The Wisdom of Solomon which reads: "Your all powerful word leaped from heaven, from the royal throne, into the midst of the land that was doomed, a stern warrior carrying the sharp sword of your authentic command."
- g. The armies in heaven – if we follow what we have accepted so far, these would be the martyrs.
 - i. The martyrs help defeat Satan by the word of their testimony (Chap 12:11).
 - ii. They wear festive clothes – white linen robes – and not battle clothes.
 - iii. Some scholars believe these are angel armies (he could have called twelve legions of angels , Matthew 26).
- h. From His mouth comes a sharp sword – the destruction of evil occurs as God declares His judgment upon the earth and its people.
 - i. God's word is true, it is sharper than any two-edged sword, it is penetrating, it is living and active, it convicts. The TRUTH always convicts. God spoke and the Earth was formed. God spoke and humans were made. God will speak - and has spoken in and through Jesus – and evil will be convicted.
- i. King of Kings and Lord of Lords
 - i. On his robe and thigh(?).
 1. It is written on his robe at his thigh.
 2. As in ancient customs, the identity of a statute was written on the statute's thigh.

2. Jesus Defeat His Enemies - 19:17-21

- a. The birds (vultures) are summoned in anticipation of a great victory.
 - i. A parody of the marriage supper of the Lamb (19:9)
 - ii. The wicked of the Earth will participate in a great feast, only they will be the main course!
- b. The beast and the kings gather.
 - i. Is this the same battle as Armageddon (Chapter 16)?
- c. The battle is over without a fight!

- i. Jesus seizes the beast and the false prophet (the "land beast) and throws them in the lake of fire.
 1. Gehenna – in Jewish tradition, the place of fire. The site where trash was burned and also historically where the prophets of Baal sacrificed young children by fire. Symbolically became "hell" and unquenchable fire to Jews.
 2. Hades – the Greek word hades is a temporary place of the dead (Acts 2:31 and Rev. 20:13-14). Hades is equivalent to the Hebrew Sheol.
- ii. Those fighting with the beasts are not thrown into the lake of fire.
 1. They are killed and become food for the birds.

The Millennial Reign and Defeat of Satan Revelation 20

(See Notes on Views of Millennialism, Pretribulationists, Posttribulationists, Jesus' Return, Scripture)

Satan is captured, chained, and thrown into the abyss by the angel.

The martyrs will be resurrected first and they will share in his millennial reign.

(Other believers and unbelievers are resurrected later)

(These martyrs are the first fruits of Christians Rev. 14:4)

Satan is released for a brief time and will gather his armies for the war.

The enemies of God are represented by Gog and Magog, two ambiguous "nations" that are a conglomerate of nations (the number is like the sands) that oppose God.

Satan is defeated and thrown into the lake of fire. No battle is described.

The Judgment comes

God cannot be hidden from, everyone will face Him.

The "second resurrection" is implied here.

The sea, Hades and death give up their dead.

The place where people go when they are dead. Holding pattern?

Are those who died at sea in a different place?

Two books – one of deeds and one of Life.

If one's name is not in the Book of Life can deeds save them?

If one's name is in the Book of Life, can deeds condemn them?

Grace and works are at play here: we are saved by grace but it requires everything of us!

Lake of fire – eternal punishment or destruction?

Based on Rev. 14, eternal punishment.