

**Revelation**  
**Chapter 19:11-21**  
**“The Return”**

**\*All scripture references are from the NASU unless otherwise noted\***

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**Teaching:** This morning’s text, in the words of Paul Harvey is, “the rest of the story”.

It provides us the rest of the story to a number of familiar passages ... for example ...

During the Lord’s time on this earth, as He was on trial before Pontius Pilot, He surprised the governor with this answer ...

**John 18:36 ... My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."**

**Q. Are you a king?** – Yep, but my kingdom is not earthly. And **Revelation chapter 19** gives us the rest of that story.

**Q. And do you remember when Jesus ascended?** – Let me read it to you from ...

**Acts 1:6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority ... 9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. 11 They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."**

And **Revelation chapter 19** gives us the rest of that story as well.

Jesus came to this earth 2,000 years ago as the Suffering Servant ... as the Sacrificial Lamb. He came then to deal with our sin issue ... and having done so ... He ascended back to the right hand of the Father and remains there to this day.

But the day is coming when He will return. He’s coming back, not as the Sacrificial Lamb, but as the Conquering King ... not to deal with our sin issue, but to establish and exercise His sovereignty.

**Q. And He is sovereign ... always has been and always will be, but men don't always recognize that do they?** -- In the exercise of their own free will, men have rejected the Lord's sovereignty by the millions. But in a day, that is no doubt nearer than we understand, Jesus will establish His sovereign reign. No longer requesting man's obedience ... but commanding it.

The first time the Lord came ... He was judged by wicked men. At His second Coming ... He will judge wicked men.

As Isaiah spoke prophetically ...

**Isa 9:6 ... a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders ... [and] 7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace ... To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore.**

**Q. Remember when King Nebuchadnezzar called Daniel to interpret his dream in Daniel chapter 2?** – The king had dreamt of a huge statue made of various types of metals and minerals. And Daniel explained to him that as one type of metal transitioned into another it was speaking of a change in world dominance historically. And Daniel said that at the end of time, world dominance would be shared by a ten-nation alliance.

But King Nebuchadnezzar also saw in his dream a large rock coming from Heaven and crushing that statue ... and that's what we're looking at this morning; the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and His crushing of those who oppose Him.

Last week, I mentioned that in **Matthew 24**, Jesus was speaking with His disciples and they asked Him for the sign of His return. He answers them in ...

**Verse 27 "For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.**

So this is not the Rapture which will be invisible to unbelievers ... this is the Lord's Second Coming and it will be seen by all.

And in that same conversation, Jesus went on to say ...

**Matt 24:29 "... immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky ... 30 "... then the ... Son of Man will appear ... COMING ON THE CLOUDS ... with power and great glory.**

That's what John sees being fulfilled as we begin in ...

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**Verses 11-13:** The description overall is a pretty familiar one ...

- Eyes like fire ... speaking of the Lord's penetrating judgment.
- The crowns and the royal robe speaking of His royalty.
- The blood stains on His royal attire (So stained, in fact, that it looked like they'd been dipped into a vat of blood), in this case, doesn't speak of His sacrifice, as you might imagine. In this case, His blood stained clothes remind us that Jesus is just then returning from His victory at The Battle of Armageddon and that it was a very bloody battle.

An unnerving thought for some. We tend to like our Jesus meek and mild. But here He's declared to be a mighty judge and executioner. It can be uncomfortable.

But the prophet Isaiah shows us Jesus in, what may be, a new light for some ...

**Isa 63:1 Who is this ... One who is majestic in His apparel, Marching in the greatness of His strength? "It is I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save." 2 Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like the one who treads in the wine press? 3 "I have trodden the wine trough alone, And from the peoples there was no man with Me. I also trod them in My anger And trampled them in My wrath; And their lifeblood is sprinkled on My garments, And I stained all My raiment. 4 "For the day of vengeance was in My heart, And My year of redemption has come. ... 6 "I trod down the peoples in My anger And made them drunk in My wrath, And I poured out their lifeblood on the earth."**

Chilling, but true words of Jesus!

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Verse 14:

**Q. Who's on these white horses following the Lord?**

**Jude 14 It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones**

It's the saints! It's you and me. We will return with the Lord.

But notice that it says "the armies (plural) which are in Heaven". So it would appear that it's not only us who will follow the divine Commander. And we read in ...

**Matt 25:31 "... when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.**

So along with us ... the angel armies ... the host of Heaven will return ... all of us

clothed ... note this ... all of us clothed in clean white linen.

Not just any white linen, but **clean**, white linen. Because even as the Lord told us in **Isaiah 63** ...

**3 "I have trodden the wine trough alone**

So His garments are soaked in the blood of battle, but ours are white as snow. Because it is Jesus who defeats evil ... now and then!

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**Verses 15-16:** Paul says in ...

**2 Thess 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. 8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming**

And back in **Revelation 2:27** we read of the Lord's promise to the church at Thyatira, that they would rule with Him ... reigning over the nations with a rod of iron.

The point is that we will be there! We will be a part of this whole scene.

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**Verses 17-19:** The "kings" spoken of here are undoubtedly, the "Ten Federated kings" of the future One World Government.

It amazes me that this could even happen. At our last Pastor's Advisory Board meeting ... 14 of us were trying to work out some details on how to divide up the Children's Ministry classes to be more age-appropriate and along with that, we discussed the creation of a Junior High Youth group.

I thought it would be a simple thing, but oh no! Not even close to a consensus ... and that was only one small room-full of people.

So trying to get the whole earth to agree as is declared here ... sounds impossible, but under the influence of Satan and the guidance of the Antichrist ... and ... believe it or not, the inspiration of God Himself ... it happens.

The world agrees to go to war against God. They agree that God has restrained their activities long enough. No longer are they going to put up with this Creator telling them what's right and wrong.

Something that the Lord clearly warned of in ...

**Ps 2:1 Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, 3 "Let us tear**

their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!" 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs ... 5 Then He will speak to them in His anger ... saying, 6 "... I have installed My King Upon Zion ... 7 "I will surely ... 8 ... give the nations as Your inheritance ... 9 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.'" 10 Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the earth. 11 Worship the LORD with reverence

And then we read in ...

**Zech 14:1 Behold, a day is coming for the LORD when ... 2 ... [He] will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle ... 3 Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations ... 4 In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. 5 ... Then the LORD, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him!**

If you were listening closely, you might be a little confused because the Lord says in **Zechariah 14, verse 2** that He will gather the nations together to bring war against Himself, but in **Psalm 2, verses 10 and 11** He begs them not to do it.

**Q. So what's the deal?** – The deal is this ... we must each choose! The war is going to take place! That's unquestionable, so when the Lord says in **Psalm 2 ... "show discernment ... Take warning ... Worship the LORD with reverence."** He's pleading with as many individuals as will listen and respond. But every man, woman and child, can and must choose for themselves.

Which means that there's a very graphic contrast here as it relates to that choice, because in last week's study we looked at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, but here we read of the Great Supper of God.

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb is, of course, that time of celebration and exultation when we will finally be eternally united with the Lord.

But here ... this Great Supper of God ... this is a time of deep mourning when those who've rejected the Lord will be eternally separated from Him through physical death. And ultimately, their carcasses are devoured by birds and scavengers.

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**Verses 20-21:**

**Q. Think back with me, if you would, to the two witnesses of God from chapter 11? – Do you remember what happened to them?** -- Because we again see the difference between following Jesus Christ and following the Antichrist.

Because just as the two witnesses of God were taken up into Heaven ... **alive** (**Revelation 11:12**) ... these two witnesses of Satan are cast into the Lake of Fire ... **alive**.

So the Beast (also known as the Antichrist), and his False Prophet are bound before the Battle of Armageddon begins and they become the first occupants of The Lake of Fire. And they will remain alone there for 1,000 years (throughout the Millennial Reign).

Unsaved people who have died from the foundation of the earth, I believe, are confined to the grave presently, but will join the Beast and the False Prophet in The Lake of Fire at the end of the Thousand Year Reign of Peace (**Revelation 20:14**).

Satan will be locked up for 1,000 years right around this time (**Revelation 20:1-6**) and he, along with his demons, will also be cast into this Lake of Fire at the end of the Thousand Year Reign of Peace (**Revelation 20:10**).

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**Conclusion:** Someone said, all too accurately ...

“The world likes a complacent, reasonable religion and so is always ready to revere some pale, Galilean image of Jesus. Some meager, anemic messiah and to give him a moderate, rational homage.”

But **Revelation 19** gives us a Jesus that is not complacent, meager, anemic or moderate. Many would say He’s not even reasonable. He’s out of control! That is ... He’s out of our control. He is undeniably sovereign.

The prophet, Zechariah said in ...

**Zech 9:9 ... Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

The Lord first came in humility, but as we look here at His Second Coming ... He comes crowned and armed and riding on the mount of a king.

And in that we should be reminded of our own calling and destiny. We’re called to humility in this life, but the divine promise is a crown of glory to those who humble themselves now.

Paul said in ...

**2 Tim 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will**

**award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved  
His appearing.**

Those who are willing to identify with the Lord in His humble incarnation as the  
Sacrificial Lamb will be exalted, by Him and with Him.