

REVELATION – SERMON 75

THE SPLENDOUR OF CHRIST'S COMING

Revelation 19:11-13

INTRODUCTION

- It was 20th March 1942, General Douglas MacArthur, having fled the Philippines, made the promise: “I shall return”
- On the 20th October 1944, MacArthur did return, and that nation was liberated
- Some 2000 years ago, on the night before his crucifixion, the Lord Jesus Christ made a promise to his disciples: “I will come again” (John 14:3)
- It has been estimated that one-third of the Bible is about the second coming of Jesus Christ
- The *Parousia* (coming, advent, presence) is the most prophesied event in the entire Bible
- In the Old Testament, there are 1,845 references to Christ Second Coming, where 17 books give it prominence.
- In the 260 chapters of the New Testament there are 318 references or one out of every 30 verses that refer to the Lord's return.
- For every prophecy on the first coming, there are eight on the second coming.

- The *proto-evangel* of Genesis 3:15 looks to the day when Satan and his forces are defeated at Christ's coming
- Enoch, the seventh from Adam, delivered a detailed description of Christ's glorious second coming, some 3000 years before his *first* coming (Jude 14-15)
- In many cases, the Old Testament prophets did not distinguish between the two advents of the Lord (Isaiah 61:1-2)
- But when we read the prophets carefully, it is clear that the Messiah would come, not only to reign as king, but to suffer and die for the sins of the people (Isaiah 53)
- The book of Revelation opened with a preview of the Lord's coming (1:7), repeatedly throughout there are references to his coming (3:3,11; 11:15; 16:15)
- But here, we come to that event we have been waiting for and longing for
- God's ultimate purpose for this world is not to *improve* the earthly kingdoms, to make a better version of a fallen world, but to establish his own new kingdom of righteousness with Christ as universal King (Daniel 2:44)
- From 19:11-20:15 there are seven occurrences of "and I saw", marking successive visions that cover the Second Coming through to the end of the 1000 year reign of Christ; the eighth "and I saw" in 21:1 heralds the new heaven and earth
- When Jesus returns, it will be in a literal, physical and visible manner—in the same manner that he ascended to heaven (Acts 1:11)

- Previously, a *door* in heaven was opened (4:1), and the *tabernacle* in heaven was opened (11:19; 15:5), but here *heaven itself* is opened for the King of glory to come to this world and establish his kingdom of righteousness

I. HIS MAGNIFICENT APPEARANCE

A. He rides a white horse

1. The rider on the white horse of 6:2 is the antichrist, imitating the true Christ
2. In ancient times, a conquering king would ride a white horse as a sign of triumph
3. Contrast Jesus formerly riding into Jerusalem upon an ass, to be crucified (Matthew 21:5)

B. His eyes a flame of fire (cf. 1:14; 2:18)

1. This speaks of Christ's omniscience, omnipresence and judgment (Proverbs 15:3; Jeremiah 17:10; 23:24)
2. No thing and no one is hidden from his piercing judgment (Hebrews 4:13)

C. Many crowns upon his head

1. He once wore a crown of thorns (Matthew 27:29)
2. For a time, Satan is permitted seven crowns (12:3), and the beast ten crowns (13:1), but the Lord Jesus wears *many* crowns and they shall never be removed
3. Every kingdom of the world will become the kingdom of Christ, and he will be crowned King over them all (11:15)

4. The plurality of crowns may also refer to him uniquely fulfilling the offices of Priest and King
 - a. The high priest wore a mitre on his head which bore the holy crown (Leviticus 8:9)
 - b. After Melchisedec, who was both priest and king (Hebrews 7:1-2), the Lord Jesus “shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne” (Zechariah 6:11-13)

D. Clothed with a vesture dipped in blood

1. Some see this as being Christ’s own blood which he shed at his first coming
2. However it is the blood of his enemies which he will tread down in the winepress of the wrath of Almighty God (Isaiah 63:1-6; Luke 19:27; Revelation 14:18-20; 19:15)
3. The ungodly, who despise and trample upon the Lamb’s blood shed for them in mercy, shall have their blood shed in the Lamb’s wrath
4. The blood of the saints (16:6; 17:6; 18:24) will no longer be shed from this moment—only the blood of their enemies

II. HIS MAJESTIC AUTHORITY

A. He comes to judge

1. All judgment is committed to the Son (John 5:22)

2. One of the main characteristics of the Messiah's judgment is *righteousness* (Psalm 45:6-7; 72:1-4; Isaiah 11:3-5; Acts 17:31)

B. He comes to make war

1. This war was started by Satan some 6000 years ago (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:15-16)
2. This is "the battle of that great day of God Almighty" (16:14) at Armageddon (16:16) when the beast and false prophet will be cast into the lake of fire (19:20) and Satan bound for 1000 years (20:2-3)
3. The final war that will end all war will take place at the end of the 1000 years at which Satan will be finally damned to the lake of fire (20:7-10)
4. The Lord Jesus Christ is not a pacifist
 - a. He is the captain of the host of the LORD (Joshua 5:14)
 - b. "The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name" (Exodus 15:3)
 - c. Jesus is indeed the "Prince of peace" (Isaiah 9:6) but in order to bring peace to the world, he must first war against the rebellious kings and nations of the world and defeat them (Isaiah 2:4; Micah 4:3)

III. HIS MARVELLOUS APPELLATIONS

- A. God has revealed himself to man through his names

1. Much of what we know about God's character is from the many names he has given himself (Exodus 3:13-14)
2. The Lord Jesus Christ has 198 names or titles given to him in the Bible
3. When he came into the world he was given the name Jesus, meaning "Saviour" (Matthew 1:21)
 - a. It is instructive that the angel in v.10 used this name, Jesus, for the glorified Saviour at the moment his Second Advent
 - b. By using the name of Jesus, so closely associated with his humanity and atoning sacrifice, we are reminded that it is "this same Jesus" (Acts 1:11), who is "the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8), who will return in glory, and before whom every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess as Lord (Philippians 2:10-11)

B. Faithful and True (11)

1. Previously he is called described as faithful and true in his *witness* (1:5; 3:14), but here in his *judgment* and *vengeance*
2. The Antichrist shows himself to be unfaithful (Daniel 9:27) and a deceiver (Matthew 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10; Revelation 13:14; cf. Jn. 8:44)

C. An unknown name (12)

1. The mystery concerning the Messiah's name

- a. Agur asked, “what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?” (Proverbs 30:4)
 - b. The angel of the LORD did not tell Jacob his name (Genesis 32:29)
 - c. The angel of the LORD told Manoah that his name was *secret* or *wonderful* (Judges 13:18)
2. As there are many things concerning the Godhead that are beyond our comprehension, so there is a divine name that we are not permitted to know
 3. It may be that this is Christ’s “new name” (3:12) that he will reveal to the saints at his coming, or it may remain known only to the Persons of the Trinity for eternity

D. The Word of God

1. “The Word” (*logos*) as a title of Christ is used only by John the apostle and is found in three of his inspired books (John 1:1,14; 1 John 1:1; 5:7)
2. In his Gospel, Christ is simply “the Word”, while in his epistle, he is “the Word of Life”, but here he is “the Word of God”
3. As the Word, he is the final and perfect expression of God’s mind, heart and will (Hebrews 1:1-2)
4. It was by this Almighty Word that the universe was spoken into existence (Psalm 33:6; John 1:3; Hebrews 11:3)
5. It is by the Word that the ungodly will be judged and damned in the last day (John 12:48)

CONCLUSION

1. The Lord will return according to his promise, though the world scoffs at the idea (2 Peter 3:3-4)
2. Their mockery will be turned to terror when the heavens open and the Lord Jesus is revealed
3. An evidence of a true saving faith is a love and desire for the Lord's appearing (2 Timothy 4:8)
4. Do you love his appearing, or would his entrance into the world be an intrusion to your pursuits and plans in life?
5. Have you trusted in the Lamb's atoning blood that was shed for your sins?
6. If you reject his blood, it is *your blood* that will stain his garments when he treads your unredeemed body and soul in the winepress of his wrath
7. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Hebrews 10:31)