

Session 11: Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (Rev. 19:11-21:8)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Chronological section #5 of the book of Revelation is the high point of human history. In this passage, Jesus comes to Jerusalem as our great Bridegroom, King, and Judge to end the Armageddon campaign by defeating the Antichrist. He will establish His earthly, 1,000-year millennial kingdom, which prepares the earth to receive the Father's throne (Rev. 21:3).
- B. The final stage of Jesus' second coming procession is the high point of history. Jesus makes His triumphal entry into Jerusalem in the context of history's greatest military conflict. He will deliver Israel at the Mount of Olives and be received by Israel's leaders (Mt. 23:39; Zech. 14:4).
- C. Jesus brings justice, or vengeance, to the earth in the context of the Antichrist's oppression, which will most intensely manifest in Jerusalem (Zech. 12:2-3; 14:2; Joel 3:2, 12; Zeph. 3:8).
- D. Jesus will only come in answer to the prayers of the saints, who will be engaged in the greatest justice movement in history. The 24/7 prayers of the *saints worldwide* (Lk. 18:7-8; Isa. 42:10-16; Rev. 5:8; 22:17) will join the prayers of the *remnant of Israel* (Zech. 12:10; Isa. 64:1-12; 30:18-33; Ps. 94:1-23; 98:1-9; 99:1-9, etc.), and of prayers of the *martyrs in heaven* (Rev. 6:10).
- ⁷***"Shall God not avenge [bring justice] His own elect who cry out day and night... ⁸...nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith [agreement] on the earth?" (Lk. 18:7-8)***
- ¹⁰***They [martyrs] cried... "How long...until You judge and avenge our blood..." (Rev. 6:10)***
- ¹⁰***"I will pour on...the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication [prayer]; then they will look on Me whom they pierced...they will mourn for Him." (Zech. 12:10)***
- ¹***Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence...²to make Your name known to Your adversaries, that the nations [Antichrist's armies] may tremble at Your presence! (Isa. 64:1-2)***
- E. The seven scenes in Rev. 19:11-21:8 are right after the seventh bowl (Rev. 16:17-21). Jesus returns in the context of the battle of Jerusalem, ending the Armageddon campaign (after three and a half years).
- Scene 1: Jesus presents Himself as He approaches Jerusalem for the final battle (Rev. 19:11-16)
- Scene 2: Jesus defeats the Antichrist at the battle of Jerusalem (Rev. 19:17-21)
- Scene 3: Satan is cast into prison for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-3)
- Scene 4: Saints are given the governmental leadership over the earth (Rev. 20:4-6)
- Scene 5: Satan is released after 1,000 years giving all a choice to obey (Rev. 20:7-10)
- Scene 6: Great white throne, or God's final judgment of all enemies (Rev. 20:11-15)
- Scene 7: The Father establishes His throne with His people on the new earth (Rev. 21:1-8)
- F. **Summary:** The most dramatic events in world history will occur in the context of the greatest *military campaign*, undergirded by the greatest *prayer movement* contending against the greatest *oppression* to see the greatest *justice movement* fulfilled across the whole earth.

II. JESUS PRESENTS HIMSELF AS HE APPROACHES JERUSALEM (REV. 19:11-16)

¹¹*I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse...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**...¹⁴...the 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...wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶...He has on His robe...a name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**. (Rev. 19:11-16)*

- A. Heaven opens to John to show him the vision, not to signify the place that Jesus rides from.
- B. **Faithful and True**: All His promises are reliable and all His policies are free of deception.
- C. **Makes war**: At the seventh trumpet, a voice in heaven announces that Jesus is taking over all the nations (Rev. 11:15). The “Jesus of Christmas” brings peace and goodwill to men (Lk. 2:14) by openly waging a just war against the evil oppressors as the “Jesus of Armageddon.” He makes war to establish peace and justice. The Antichrist started the war (Rev. 11:7; 12:7, 17; 13:4, 7; 17:14; 19:11, 19; Dan. 7:21; 9:26). This war is also won in the heavenlies (Rev. 12:7-12).
- D. **Robe dipped in blood**: Most scholars see this as the blood of Jesus’ enemies. This eschatological winepress is the gathering of evil leaders to Jerusalem. The wine flowing out of it is their blood. The blood on His robe denotes His intimate involvement and public statement that He believes in this war. The word dipped comes from the Greek word *baptō* (baptize), which is translated by some as *sprinkled* or *soaked*. The robe is the long outer garment.
- ¹*Who is this who comes from Edom [Jordan]...this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength? ²...Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? ³“I have trodden the winepress...I have trodden them in My anger...their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. ⁴For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come.” (Isa. 63:1-4)*
- E. In Psalm 45, Jesus is seen as beautiful in context to the Armageddon campaign.
- ²*You are fairer than the sons of men; grace is poured upon Your lips...³Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, with Your glory and Your majesty. ⁴...in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness...⁵Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the King’s enemies; the peoples [nations] fall under You. (Ps. 45:2-5)*
- F. A river of blood runs nearly 200 miles, or the distance from Megiddo in the north to Bozrah in the south (Israel is 160 miles from north to south). A furlong equals a stadia (NIV) or 200 yards.
- ¹⁹*The angel...gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰...the winepress was trampled...and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for 1,600 furlongs [200 miles]. (Rev. 14:19-20)*
- G. **Armies followed Him**: Jesus conquers in partnership with His people (Rev. 3:21; Jn. 17:24). The saints are with Him (1 Thes. 4:14; Zech. 14:5). The saints dash the nations with Him (Rev. 2:27).

III. JESUS DEFEATS THE ANTICHRIST AT THE BATTLE OF JERUSALEM (REV. 19:17-21)

¹⁷*I saw an angel...saying to all the birds...“...gather together for the supper of the great God,¹⁸ that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses...”¹⁹...I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him ...and against His army.²⁰Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet...These two were cast alive into the lake of fire...²¹...the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him...the birds were filled with their flesh. (Rev. 19:17-21)*

A. The nations gather to make war with Jesus (Rev. 17:14; 19:19), who they believe is a false Messiah, or angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). They will not feel threatened by a small Israeli army.

B. The Lord will gather all nations to His winepress in Jerusalem to kill them (Joel 3:2, 11-21). Satan will deceive the kings into coming (Rev. 16:13-16). Men come motivated by ambition.

⁸*“My determination is to gather the nations to My assembly of kingdoms, to pour on them My indignation...all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy.” (Zeph. 3:8)*

C. John describes Jesus' great victory at the battle of Jerusalem, which the OT prophets prophesied. Jesus enters Jerusalem, arriving at the perfect time to rescue the remnant of Israel.

²*I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken...half of the city shall go into captivity...³Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations...⁴His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives...and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two...making a very large valley...⁵Then you shall flee through My mountain valley...Yes, you shall flee...the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You. (Zech. 14:2-5)*

³*In that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone...all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it. (Zech. 12:3)*

D. David saw Jesus executing His enemies as He establishes His worldwide empire (Ps. 110:5-7). Jesus will execute the leaders of the nations at the end of the Armageddon campaign.

⁵*He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath.⁶He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. (Ps. 110:5-6)*

E. The pinnacle of the second coming procession is Jesus' reentry into the city of Jerusalem to be officially received by the governmental leaders of Israel as their messianic King.

³⁹*“I 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)*

F. Jesus will be celebrated as the Son of David in a hosanna coronation parade that is hosted by the leaders of Israel. The leaders of Israel will open the gates of Jerusalem to Jesus in an official declaration of Him as their King, after He rescues them and ends the Armageddon campaign.

⁷*Lift up your heads, O you gates [of Jerusalem]! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.⁸Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle [Armageddon campaign]. (Ps. 24:7-8)*

IV. INTRODUCTION TO THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM: JESUS' 1,000-YEAR REIGN (REV. 20)

- A. John shows us the end of the story in Revelation 20-22. We must shake free of the fog of unbelief and sentimentality to clearly see the plan and to purposefully prepare for it.
- B. At this time, the kingdom of God will be openly manifest worldwide, affecting every sphere of life (political, social, agricultural, economic, spiritual, educational, law enforcement, family, media, arts, technology, athletics, environment, social institutions, etc.). The result will be a 1,000-year period of unprecedented blessing for the earth as Jesus establishes righteousness and prosperity, and restores the agriculture, atmosphere, and animal life to some of the conditions that were seen in the garden of Eden (Rev. 20:1-6; Isa. 2:1-4; 9:6-9; 11:1-16; 51:1-8; 60-62; 65:17-25; Ps. 2:6-12; 110:1-7; Deut. 8; 28; Mt. 5:5; 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; 28:19; Acts 1:6; 3:21).
- C. In the Millennium, all the kings of the earth will be saved, worship Jesus (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 62:2; Rev. 21:24), and base their national governments on God's Word.
- D. Jesus will bring together the supernatural, physical, political, and relational dimensions of the kingdom so that we eventually experience the fullness of the Father's plan on earth forever. These aspects converge together in the millennial kingdom.
 - 1. The ***New Jerusalem*** coming to earth will bring the supernatural, eternal dimension. When the New Jerusalem comes to the millennial earth, then heaven is literally on earth.
 - 2. The ***garden of Eden*** will bring a physical paradise aspect, including restoring the environment (agriculture, animals, atmosphere, etc.), along with physical pleasures.
 - 3. The ***kingdom of David*** will bring a political, social dimension of life (government, economic, education, family, arts, music, technology, travel, communication, etc.).
 - 4. The ***house of prayer*** in the millennial temple will be the center of the worldwide worship and prayer movement. This brings an intimate, relational aspect.
- E. The Millennium is a term that speaks of a literal 1,000-year period, in which Jesus rules the earth (*millennium* is from the Latin *mille*, or a thousand, and *annus*, a year). Revelation 20:1-10 has three sections describing events occurring during the Millennium:
 - 1. Revelation 20:1-3: Satan is imprisoned for 1,000 years (beginning of the Millennium)
 - 2. Revelation 20:4-6: The resurrected saints are given the leadership of the earth (during the Millennium)
 - 3. Revelation 20:7-10: Satan is released from prison to deceive nations (end of the Millennium).
- F. The themes of Revelation 20 are the victory of God's people and a final defeat of His enemies. John is the first to reveal the length of the Millennium, the exaltation of the saints who reign as kings and priests, Satan's imprisonment for 1,000 years, and his release to deceive the nations.

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

²*He [angel] laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old...the Devil and Satan, and bound him for 1000 years; ³and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations...after these things he must be released for a little while. (Rev. 20:2-3)*

- A. **Satan will be bound:** Laying hold of him will be a dramatic event. He will be bound with supernatural chains, cast into the pit or prison, then shut up with no communication or activity on the earth. A seal will be set on him to proclaim that he will not break out of prison.
- B. **Four names of Satan:** Each depicts different crimes and reveals ways in which he attacks us. The Dragon denotes his cruelty. The serpent of old refers to the liar in the garden of Eden (Gen. 3). The devil means the accuser, and Satan means the adversary who attacks us.

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

⁴*I 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...they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years...⁶Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection...they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4-6)*

- A. John saw thrones as one of the highlights in Revelation. The saints of Rev. 19:14 and 19 are the subject of the phrase “they sat” (v. 4). Jesus will govern the earth in partnership with resurrected saints (Rev. 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; Rom 8:17). All governmental authority will be replaced and put in the hands of those who exhibited meekness on the earth (Mt. 5:5).
- B. Jesus will rule a worldwide kingdom in partnership with two types of kings: *kings of the earth* (non-resurrected bodies) and *resurrected kings* (saints with resurrected bodies).

VII. SATAN IS RELEASED AFTER 1,000 YEARS, GIVING A CHOICE TO OBEY (REV. 20:7-10)

³*But after these things he must be released for a little while...⁷...when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸and will go out to deceive the nations...to gather them together to battle. ⁹They went up...and surrounded...the beloved City...fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰The devil...was cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:3, 7-10)*

- A. Satan must be released at the end of the Millennium. Why? God will openly manifest the truth about the *depth of human sin* (called the mystery of lawlessness in 2 Thes. 2:7) and about Satan as being *incurably evil*. Satan deceives the nations revealing he was not rehabilitated or changed.
- B. God demonstrates the justice of His eternal judgments by showing that rehabilitation will not occur, and that men rebel even in an ideal environment, because they love sin. Men will not be able to blame their sin on their difficult circumstances. These events will create gratitude in us.

VIII. GREAT WHITE THRONE: GOD'S FINAL JUDGMENT OF ALL ENEMIES (REV. 20:11-15)

¹I saw a great white throne...²I 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...³...they were judged, each one according to his works. ⁴Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. (Rev. 20:11-15)

IX. THE FATHER ESTABLISHES HIS THRONE WITH HIS PEOPLE ON EARTH (REV. 21:1-8)

¹I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ²Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (Rev. 21:1-4)

- A. The high point of all salvation history is the Father dwelling on earth with humans (v. 3). The Father gives us a sevenfold message (Rev. 21:5-8) revealing His commitments to us. The Father speaks in a direct way for only the second time in Revelation (Rev. 1:8; 21:5).
- B. The New Jerusalem is our eternal dwelling place. The city is seen in relationship, or in its nearness, to God (Rev. 21:1-8). The New Jerusalem descends to the earth on two occasions (at the second coming and then after the millennial reign).
- C. In the Millennium, Jesus' primary mandate is to prepare the earth for the Father's coming by bringing the nations to mature righteousness (1 Cor. 15:24-28). Righteousness will be substantial in the Millennium, then perfect afterwards on the new earth.
- D. All the enemies of Jesus will be subdued before and just after the millennial rebellion. Then, at the end of the Millennium, the earth will be purged with fire to fully prepare it for the Father (2 Pet. 3:10-13; Rev. 20:11). Fire will rinse the earth, possibly to remove the residue resulting from the millennial revolt. This is like scrubbing a filthy pot, then rinsing it one more time.
- E. The adorning of the city as a bride says that God spared no detail or extravagance. The city is seen in its functional terms as the Holy of Holies and garden of Eden in Revelation 21:9-22:5. In 21:3-4, seven negatives are removed: the sea (21:1), death, sorrow, crying, pain (21:4), curse (22:3), and night (21:25; 22:5). All that diminished our life will be totally and eternally reversed.
- F. The new earth is the permanent resting place of the New Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem rests forever on the new earth. Theologians debate whether this present earth will be renovated (renewed) or annihilated after the Millennium to be the new earth. The earth will continue forever (Ps. 37:29; 78:69; 104:5; 105:10-11; 125:1-2; 1 Chr. 23:25; 28:8; Isa. 60:21; Ezek. 37:25; Joel 3:20). The words "passed away" in Rev. 21:1 are the same as in 2 Cor. 5:17.