

# REVELATION – SERMON 77

## ***THE TRIUMPH OF CHRIST'S COMING***

### Revelation 19:17-21

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- Almost every week there is a new film produced which mocks and blasphemes the Lord Jesus Christ
- The aged Simeon prophesied that Jesus would be “a sign which shall be spoken against” (Luke 2:34)
- Simeon also said “this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel”
- The rising or falling of every soul depends on Jesus Christ
- When he comes in glory, many will be raised up in glory with him, but many more will fall in his wrath
- Previously, we saw the *splendour* of Christ's coming (vv.11-13), then the *sword* of his coming (vv.14-16), and here we see the *triumph* of his coming as his enemies are brought to utter desolation

#### **I. THERE IS AN INVITATION TO A FEAST OF CARRION (17-18)**

##### A. The angel in the sun

1. He is positioned in the sky, against the sun, yet his glory is not obscured by it
2. In the fourth plague the sun scorched men (16:8), and in the fifth there was great darkness (16:10)

##### B. The fowls summoned

1. The apostle draws from Ezekiel's prophecy against Gog, where the fowls and beasts are called to devour the slain of that battle (Ezekiel 39:17-20)
2. One of God's curses upon rebellious Israel was their slain corpses would be meat for fowls and beasts (Deuteronomy 28:26)
  - a. This was fulfilled upon the houses of Jeroboam (1 Kings 14:11), Baasha (1 Kings 16:14) and Ahab (1 Kings 21:24; 2 Kings 9:33-37)
  - b. It was promised upon a rebellious Judah (Jeremiah 7:33)
3. The Lord Jesus prophesied of eagles devouring the carcass at his coming (Matthew 24:27-28; Luke 17:34-37)

4. God gave animals to mankind for food and sacrifice, but on this day the natural order is overturned as God gives man to the animals as a sacrificial feast

### C. The supper

1. The contrast with marriage supper of the Lamb (v.9) could not be greater
2. It is “the supper of the great God”
  - a. Here the Critical Text is altered from the inspired Received Text, applying the adjective “great” to the supper, instead of God, and in doing so has removed a clear testimony to Christ’s deity
  - b. The title, “the great God” (*tou megalou theou*) appears in only one other place in the New Testament, and is applied to the Lord Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13)
3. Five times in v.18 is “flesh” (*sarkas*) used
  - a. These people lived only for the flesh and its works (Galatians 5:19-21)
  - b. Those who sow to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption (Galatians 6:8)
  - c. The ten kings who ate the flesh of the whore (17:16), shall have their flesh eaten by fowls
4. Kings, captains, mighty men, free and bond, small and great
  - a. Previously, all these groups of men hid in dens and caves from the Lamb’s wrath, but there will be no escape for them (6:15-17)
  - b. Death is the great leveller
  - c. In this life there is a great variety and difference between the circumstances of people in the world
  - d. But death brings all together on common ground; those distinctions are removed (Hebrews 9:27)

## II. THERE IS A CONGREGATION OF THE FOES OF CHRIST (19)

### A. The gathering to war

1. Their leader is the beast who ascended from the bottomless pit (11:7), empowered by Satan (13:2)
2. The kings of the earth include the ten kings who receive power from the beast (Daniel 7:24; Revelation 17:12)
3. There are also numerous other world leaders joined together against God and Christ (Psalm 2:1-3)

4. The greatest unifier of mankind is hatred Jesus Christ (cf. Luke 23:12)
5. Note, that they are gathered not only against Christ, but against “his army”, which includes the saints

B. The battle of Armageddon

1. Armageddon (16:16) refers to the great plain of Megiddo southwest of the Sea of Galilee
2. It is here that the nations of the world will gather to fight against Jerusalem and Christ, and “Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle” (Zechariah 14:1-3)
3. This is the “harvest of the earth” which is “ripe” (14:15)
4. The blood that will be spilt on that day is likened to wine pouring out of a winepress (Isaiah 63:1-6) which will cover the whole land of Israel (14:19-20)
5. This is “the day of vengeance of our God” (Isaiah 61:2)

C. The motivation of their gathering

1. Their own hatred of Christ (Romans 1:19-32)
2. The spirits of devils (16:13-14)
3. The hand of God (17:17; cf. Proverbs 16:4; 21:1; Exodus 9:16; Romans 9:17)

### III. THERE IS A DAMNATION OF FIERY CONTEMPT (20-21)

A. The beast and false prophet seized

1. His worldwide reign of blasphemy, deception and murder lasts only seven years, then God ends it (Daniel 7:25)
2. The devil, their lord, will at the same time be bound and cast into the bottomless pit (20:1-3)

B. Cast into the lake of fire

1. The term “lake of fire” is peculiar to the book of Revelation (14:10; 19:20; 20:10,14-15; 21:8)
2. “Brimstone” is a sulphurous material that, united with fire, represents indescribable torment (cf. Genesis 19:24-25; Ezekiel 38:22)
3. It seems these two men will be the first occupants of the lake of fire
  - a. Presently the souls of the lost are in hell (*hades*) awaiting judgment (Luke 16:22-26)

- b. At the end of the millennium, they will be judged and then cast into the lake of fire (20:10-15)
  4. As two men went to heaven alive, so two people will go to the lake of fire alive (cf. Numbers 16:30; Psalm 55:15)
  5. It would seem that in the process of their being thrown into the lake of fire, they will be killed, then suffer the eternal, second death (Daniel 7:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:8)
  6. It should be clear from this that the beast and false prophet are particular *men*, not allegorical representations of systems
  7. The damnation of the beast and false prophet refutes the heresy of *annihilationism*, in that 1000 years later they are found still suffering conscious torment in the same lake of fire (20:10)
- C. The rest will be slain by the sword of Christ's mouth
1. This includes all the armies at Armageddon, but most likely all the unbelievers on earth at his coming
  2. These will go to hell and await the great white throne judgment at the end of the millennium (20:11-15)
  3. Note that there will be many believers on earth at that moment, who will survive and be welcomed into Christ's kingdom (Matthew 25:31-46)

## CONCLUSION

1. The latest derisive term for Biblical truth is "Toxic Christianity"
2. Yet there is an element of truth in their vitriol—the gospel *is* toxic to the impenitent (2 Corinthians 2:15-16)
3. Is the gospel, Christianity or Christ himself responsible for the damnation of the lost?
4. No, if you are damned, it is because you have damned yourself by rejecting Christ (Matthew 11:20-24; Romans 2:5-6)
5. The lost go to hell only after trampling over every obstacle, every escape that God has placed before them
6. "Whosoever shall fall on this stone [Christ] shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder" (Matthew 21:44)
7. The Lord Jesus is "set for the fall and rising again of many" (Luke 2:34)
8. Unless you have humbly bowed before him in repentance and faith, you will fall eternally in to the lake of fire
9. "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him" (Psalm 2:12)