

REVELATION – SERMON 76

THE SWORD OF CHRIST'S COMING

Revelation 19:14-16

INTRODUCTION

- Ever since the fall, man has been continually devising more and more advanced weapons whereby he can kill his fellow man
- “I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.” (Albert Einstein)
- During the coming seven-year tribulation period, the earth will be so devastated by war and by the judgments of God, that mankind will be degraded and brought to a primitive state
- Technology, infrastructure and manufacturing will be disrupted, and warfare must be conducted with basic weapons such as swords and spears (Joel 3:9-10; Isaiah 2:4; Micah 4:3)
- But the final battle of Armageddon will feature a weapon more powerful than anything ever produced by man
- It is *indestructible, unstoppable* and *inexhaustible*
- It is the sword proceeding out of the mouth of the Lord Jesus Christ, which will utterly destroy all the kings and armies of the world amassed against him in a moment
- The coming of Christ will be in two phases—the *rapture* and the *revelation*

THE RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS	THE REVELATION OF CHRIST
Before the tribulation (1 Thess. 1:10)	After the tribulation (Matthew 24:29-30)
Christ comes <i>for</i> his saints(1 Thess. 4:13-17)	Christ comes <i>with</i> his saints (Jude 14)
Christ takes his saints to heaven (John 14:3)	Christ brings the saints to earth (Rev. 19:14)
Christ comes to the clouds (1 Thess. 4:17)	Christ comes to the earth (Zechariah 14:4-5)
Imminent (1 Thessalonians 4:17)	After 7 years tribulation (Daniel 9:24-27)
Believers judged (2 Corinthians 5:10)	Earth judged (Revelation 19:15)

- One of the words that is constantly associated with the Second Coming of Christ is *glory* (Psalm 102:16; Isaiah 40:5; Matthew 24:30; 25:31; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26; 21:27; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Titus 2:13)

- The Hebrew word *kabod*, has the root meaning of “weight” or “heaviness”
- The Greek word *doxa* refers to “what evokes good opinion, i.e. that something has inherent, intrinsic worth”
- Christ, as God, is “glorious”—his character and essence are worthy of highest honour and esteem
- His glory is the infinite beauty and greatness of his manifold perfections
- At his first coming, his glory, though veiled, was yet manifest to the world (John 1:14; 2:11)
- But at his second coming, his full glory will appear to all, bringing terror to the wicked, and joy to the righteous

I. THE SAINTS OF HIS TRAIN (14)

A. The armies in heaven

1. The use of the plural may indicate various groups accompanying the Lord
2. The holy angels will be with him (Matthew 13:41; 16:27; 24:30-31; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26; 2 Thessalonians 1:7)
3. The church age saints will appear with him in glory (Zechariah 14:5; Colossians 3:4; 2 Thessalonians 1:10; Jude 14; Revelation 17:14)

B. They ride on white horses

1. This indicates the triumph they share with their Lord
2. This multitude consists largely of humble pilgrims who were despised, hated, mocked and persecuted by this wicked world, but on that day, these meek ones shall inherit the earth (2 Timothy 2:12)
3. There is no comparison between the “sufferings of this present time” and “the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:17-18)

C. They are clothed in white

1. This is the perfect righteousness of Christ imputed to them (3:4; 15:6)

2. Note that they bear no weapons—the Lord alone will defeat the beast and his armies

II. THE SWORD OF HIS TRIUMPH (15)

A. This sword is the word of God

1. It is no ordinary sword, as it proceeds from the mouth of the Lord (Isaiah 11:4)
2. Even in his state of humiliation, the power of Christ's word was evidenced (John 18:6)
3. The wicked are judged by the words of Christ which they have rejected and violated (John 12:48; Hebrews 4:12-13)
 - a. God's law brings man under the curse and wrath of God (Galatians 3:10)
 - b. As the plagues of the tribulation flow from the "testimony" in heaven (11:19; 15:5-6), so the final slaughter at Christ's return will be on the same basis
4. The "glittering sword" of Christ's coming is described in Deuteronomy 32:39-43
 - a. There are contrasting effects of Christ's coming: killing & quickening; wounding & healing; vengeance & mercy
5. His sword is *twoedged* (1:16; 2:12)
 - a. For some, it wounds in order to heal (Proverbs 27:6)
 - b. For others, it slays in order to destroy

B. He will smite and rule the nations

1. This is a clear allusion to Psalm 2
2. The Greek word for "rule" (*poimanei*) indicates to "tend as a shepherd" (cf. 7:17)
3. The "rod" (*rabdoi*) is both the Shepherd's staff and the King's sceptre
4. Jacob (Genesis 49:10) and Balaam (Numbers 24:17-19) prophesied of this sceptre that the Messiah would one day wield

III. THE SUPREMACY OF HIS TITLE (16)

- A. Four titles used in Revelation at his Second Coming correspond to the four depictions of him in the Gospels
 - 1. Matthew: King of kings (19:16)
 - 2. Mark: Faithful and true (19:11)
 - 3. Luke: Son of Man (14:14)
 - 4. John: Word of God (19:13)
- B. This is a title of deity, for only Jehovah is King of kings and Lord of lords (Deuteronomy 10:17; Psalm 136:3; 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14)
- C. The beast took to himself the place of a “king of kings” for a brief time (17:12-13)
- D. Christ’s kingdom “shall stand for ever” (Daniel 2:44)

CONCLUSION

- 1. Jesus is the “Lord of glory” (James 2:1)
- 2. Are you ascribing glory to him in your words and deeds?
- 3. Believers will have the blessed privilege of following Christ in his glorious return, riding white horses and clothed in pure, white garments
- 4. Will you be in that number? Are you clothed in the pure, white righteousness of Christ, by trusting in his blood alone for your salvation?
- 5. Those who are Christ’s show they are his by preparing for his coming: “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure” (1 John 3:2-3)
- 6. As Christ will come wielding his sword, so he has entrusted to his people a sword to be wielded in the spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:17)
- 7. With this sword we:
 - ✓ Convert the lost (Romans 10:17)
 - ✓ Comfort the afflicted (Psalm 119:50)
 - ✓ Confound the enemies (Titus 1:9)
 - ✓ Cleanse our way (Psalm 119:9)