

## ***The Church of the Servant King***

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### **PROPHECY SERIES**

(Proph21W\_Revelation\_chp19B\_Three Things Associated with Christ's Second Coming – Part 2)

#### **#3 – THE BEAST AND HIS ARMIES ARE DEFEATED (19:17-21)**

17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in mid-heaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God; 18 in order that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great." 19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat upon the horse, and against His army. 20 And the beast was seized and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat upon the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

*"Come, assemble for the great supper of God"* – Demons influence the kings of the earth to gather and fight as already mentioned in Revelation 16:12-16. An angel is used by God to summon the birds of the air to assemble and consume the flesh of all of those who will be killed (Rev 19:17-18). The kings of the earth unite with him to fight against God. They are under strong delusion (2 Thess 2:9-12).

#### *Revelation 16:12-16*

Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. 13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of the Almighty. 15 Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame. 16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

#### *2 Thessalonians 2:8-12*

And 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; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all powers, signs, and false wonders, 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but who took pleasure in wickedness.

*"...make war against Him who sat upon the horse, and against His army"* – The earth is under the dominion of the kings of the earth who have aligned themselves with Satan, his purpose and his earthly agents (the Beast and the false prophet). This is the power system of Satan and man at its pinnacle. They are now aligned to resist all Jesus, the Messiah and His

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army. Under the influence of Satan, they are aligned to complete their subjugation of the earth and their purpose is to attempt to deny its rightful owner (cf. Psa 2).

*Who returns with Christ and constitutes His army?* – There are several passages that, when combined, provide us with an answer to this question. Consider the following:

- **Resurrected saints from the Age of Israel** –
  - “Your dead will live, their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, for your dew is as the dew of the dawn, and **the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.**” (Isa 26:19)<sup>1</sup>
  - “Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. **2 “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.** **3 “And those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”** (Dan 12:1-3)
  - “And he said, ‘Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time. Many will be purged, purified and refined; but the wicked will act wickedly, and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand...But as for you, go your way to the end; then **you will enter into rest and rise again** for your allotted portion **at the end of the age.**” (Dan 12:9-10, 13)
- **Angels** – “...and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His **angels** with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the one end of the sky to the other.” (Matt 24:30b-31)
- **Resurrected saints from the Tribulation** – The following passages allude to such a conclusion.
  - “And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, ‘Write, “**Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!**” ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors for their deeds follow with them.” (Rev 14:13)<sup>2</sup>
  - “And I saw, as it were, a sea of glass mixed with fire, and **those who had come off victorious from the beast and from his image and from the number of his name**, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God.” (Rev 15:2)
  - “These [the Beast and those aligned with him] will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and **those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.**” (Rev 17:14)
  - “Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready. And it was given to her to clothe herself in the fine linen, bright and clean; for the **fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.**” (Rev 19:7-8)
  - “And the **armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean**, were following Him on white horses.” (Rev 19:14)<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This passage is set within the context of the Age of Israel and Isaiah is addressing the children of Israel. There seems to be no passage that establishes with clarity the timing of the resurrection of believers who died prior to the Age of Israel. However, most dispensationalists associate the resurrection of the saints from that period of human history with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent.

<sup>2</sup> See the notes from the previous session in which I discussed the close association between salvation faith and works in passages that deal with periods of human history that are proximate to the establishment of the kingdom.

- *“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.” (Rev 20:4)*

*Are believers of the present age, the Church Age Body of Christ, members of Christ's army at His 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent?* – Paul alludes to us ruling and reigning with Christ and our appearance with Him; however, details are lacking. Traditionally, dispensationalists have provided the missing details from passages that are Jewish in context.

- We will appear with Him in glory; however, the exact nature of our role is unclear. In addition, the timing of passages that reference our coming with Christ is in reference to the Rapture.
  - *“When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.” (Col 3:4)*
  - *“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.” (1 Thess 4:14)<sup>4</sup>*
  - *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.” (1 Thess 4:16-17)*
- Scripture references our heir-ship with Christ and our reign with Him; however, details regarding the relationship of our inheritance and reign to the Millennium are few. Again, most dispensationalists allude to passages that are Jewish and/or Age of Israel in context (e.g. Matt 16:24-27; 19:28-29; Lu 22:28-30 and probably Rev 2:26-27; 3:21 are examples).
  - *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also of God and **fellow heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of glory of the children of God.” (Rom 8:16-21 cf. Heb 1:1-2)*

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<sup>3</sup> While the riders of the horses in this verse could be angels since angels have been similarly described previously in Revelation as clothed in clean and bright linen (15:6), the immediate context of 19:14 seems to indicate that it is resurrected humans that are the subject of this passage (19:7-8).

<sup>4</sup> On the surface, this verse seems to reference the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent and if true, would lead us to the conclusion that Paul is saying that believers of the present age return with Christ at His 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent. However, in the verses immediately following, Paul indicates that believers who are alive at Jesus' coming (the Rapture) will meet Jesus and the believers who have already died in the air (1 Thess 4:17). The *Expositor's Commentary* clarifies with the following. “Though we might expect Paul to write ‘God will raise’ instead of ‘God will bring with Jesus,’ he used the latter because of an unexpressed connection in his mind between the two ideas. To be brought with Jesus presupposes rising from the dead as part of the process (v. 16). The words ‘God will bring’ point to a continuing movement heavenward after the meeting in the air (v. 17), until the arrival in the Father's presence .... A more detailed analysis of the process follows (*gar*, v. 15).” Frank E. Gaebelain, *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, New Testament (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1989-1998), electronic version.

- *“Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? Or do you not know that **the saints will judge the world?** And **if the world is judged by you**, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? Do you not know that **we shall judge angels?** How much more, matters of this life?”* (1 Cor 6:1-3)
- *“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”* (Phil 3:20-21)
- *“...therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. This is a plain indication of God’s righteous judgment so that **you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God**, for which indeed you are suffering.”* (2 Thess 1:4-5) [There is some association between believers of the present age and the kingdom based upon passages such as this].
- *“It is a trustworthy statement: ‘For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; if we endure, we shall also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us; if we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.’”* (2 Tim 2:11-12)
- *“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.”* (2 Tim 4:8)
- *“...looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.”* (Titus 2:13)
- *“For He did not subject to angels the world to come...”* (Heb 2:5)
- *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **to obtain an inheritance** which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, **reserved in heaven** for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith **for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time**. In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”* (1 Pet 1:3-7)

*The worshipping of the image of the beast* – In Revelation 13, we were provided an overview of the “beast from the sea” (a.k.a. the Anti-Christ) and the “beast from the earth” (a.k.a. the false prophet – Rev 16:13; 19:20; 20:10).

As we have seen, at the mid-point of the Tribulation period when Satan and his legions are denied further access to heaven (Rev 12:7-12), the man who is the Anti-Christ (a.k.a. the “little horn” of Daniel 7:7-8) will suffer what is apparently a mortal wound. He will apparently undergo a pseudo-resurrection after a descent into the Abyss, the abode of Satan and his legions, and he will emerge with superhuman, Satanic powers – thus his number of 666 (Rev 13:3-4 cf. 13:18).

The “beast from the earth” or the “false prophet” will require all of the earth’s inhabitants to worship an image of the beast that will be set up in the Temple in Jerusalem (2 Thess 2:4 - “who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.”)

The Anti-Christ and the false prophet are thrown into the Lake of Fire to be joined by Satan and all unbelievers at the end of the 1000 years (Rev 20:10).

This passage concludes the first of five final judgments associated with Christ's return as described in the book of Revelation.

- 19:17-21 – Men – the Beast and the False Prophet
- 20:1-3 – Satan – confined to the Abyss for 1000 years
- 20:4-6 – Men – judgment is given to the overcomers and the rest of the dead are left for judgment at the end of the 1000 years
- 20:7-10 – Satan – the judgment of Satan at the end of the 1000 years
- 20:11-15 – The great white throne judgment