

Revelation 19 pt 3
Rev 19:11-16 Christ Has Come
The Return of the King

Church sign

“NORMAL ISN'T COMING BACK, BUT Jesus IS.”

This is a reminder that we are living in an ongoing season of Advent A SECOND ADVENT.

It may seem odd to preach from Revelation during Advent, but I am convinced that this book helps us deepen our understanding of the Incarnation of Christ, the Son of God, the Son of Man.

The baby in the manger and the returning victorious king are the same person – fully God and fully man.

The story of Christ in the NT has Kingly Advent bookends

His birth is proclaimed as the coming of a new king, and in the final pages of the NT we see the Return of the King.

Taken together, these two Advent Kings give us a more complete picture of the fullness of all that Christ is for us.

My prayer is that the Return of the King proclaimed in Revelation 19 will intensify our joy as we celebrate His first advent in the Incarnation.

On this side of the first Christmas in 2022, we are in the SECOND ADVENT SEASON. If we had a candle for each week of waiting, we'd have ~103,584 candles.

The first advent was more of a low-key event, except for the angel choir with the shepherds. Jesus was born in a lowly stable and there was not a great announcement to the pillars of society. Throughout most of his life, the glory of his divinity was hidden behind his humanity. Then he began his public ministry and was rejected by his own people. He was despised, rejected, and turned over to be crucified. After his resurrection, he promised to return...the Second Advent.

The second Advent is very different as we will see here in Rev 19.

At the first Advent Jesus came as a baby so that we might not be terrified but might be drawn to God in holy boldness.

EX: Have you ever been TERRIFIED by a baby???
(a 3 or 4 year old perhaps, but not a baby).

At the second Advent, He'll come in a different way and John describes it for us that we might seek Christ before His return.

Reading the Christmas story and the book of Revelation, we might ponder this thought from Sam the Hobbit in The Two Towers...

Sam to Frodo – “I wonder what sort of tale we've fallen into “

Luke 1

28 And coming in, he said to her, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” 29 But she was very perplexed at *this* statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. 30 The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.

And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

The prophecy of the birth of Christ in Luke 1 comes to its ultimate fulfillment in Rev 19-22. These chapters, like the ones preceding them, give different perspectives on the same final events. We now have John leading us to the final conclusion of the victory of Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

What the angel said to Mary in Luke 1:30 is appropriate for us today, "Do not be afraid". We hear this from angels in 1:13;(Zacharias) 2:10 (shepherds),

We hear this in Revelation 1:17 as John sees Christ, with white hair, and eyes like a flame of fire. 1:17

When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, 18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

The book of Revelation and this passage show us why we need not be afraid...

Because the ultimate victor is Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

I've said numerous times in this series that the bottom line of Revelation is this...Jesus has won, Jesus is winning, Jesus will win.

It becomes abundantly clear in this passage and the remaining chapters.

Several weeks ago, I mentioned Michael Crichton's book, STATE OF FEAR. He lays out how fear is used as a weapon.

We live in a fearful age in which different groups peddle fear as a means of gaining power. And when there is no evident reason to fear, different fears or "phobias" are invented and given a status in the current pantheon of social phobias.

The GOOD NEWS is that even in the face the world's efforts to promote fear, "the first and the last, the Living One who was dead but is now alive" is the final victor.

Jesus does tell us the right kind of fear and who to fear...

Matt 10:28

28 Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

This and the upcoming sections of Revelation are clear reminders that the issues at stake are eternal. The reason the angels were so excited to announce the birth of Jesus is because they knew that he was coming to 'save His people from their sins.'

As Paul tells us in Galatians 1:4, "Jesus gave himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age..."

If the baby in the manger, the miracles, the perfect life, and the resurrection don't draw you to Christ, then pay close attention to this final portrayal because this is the last call. Once He returns there will be no more debates or time for putting off a decision.

This text from Revelation 19 is the bookend to the incarnation story of Christmas.

What qualifies Jesus for this role?

and He who sat on the White Horse *is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.*

He is “Faithful and True,” the witness whose words can be relied upon (1:5; 3:14; see 1 Tim. 1:13).
He is the faithful witness 1:5 The Amen, the faithful and true witness 3:14

Faithful and True are two qualities that seem scarce these days. We hear so much about those who are just the opposite in various walks of life. From Crypto fraud to college trade portals to politics to bonds of marriage, it seems hard to find those whose word means anything.

But Jesus is faithful and true.

Isaiah 59:14-17 REad

He judges righteously.

Because he was judged for OUR unrighteousness, he knows what righteous judgement is and should be.

“God’s goodness does not mean that he will indefinitely tolerate evil. Those who will not repent of their evil must in the end perish with it. For God to be truly and finally good to his whole creation he must remove whatever spoils and destroys its goodness-ideally by repentance, but if necessary by judgment.” Richard Bauckham

“If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for.” Charles Spurgeon

This is our calling now, to proclaim the hope in Christ to those who don’t know him. Someone did that for us. Someone prayed for us.

Jesus himself now appears as the royal champion of his people, ready for war—the final war—against all of his and our enemies (19:11–16). He rides a white horse, its color symbolizing triumph. His names and descriptions are drawn from earlier passages in Revelation.

In the Roman world, a victorious general would lead a parade on a white horse. The last phrase of v. 11 alludes to the rider on the White Horse as a warrior....’he wages war’.

And in this battle, Christ is the Victor

His eyes are like a flame of fire – 1:14 the first vision John had of Jesus made him fall down like a dead man because his eyes were like a flame of fire.. the same description is given in the letter to Thyatira.

His eyes are able to see through us like a laser...EX: Superman

He can see through all of our outward pretense right into the hidden corners of our hearts.

He knows all and sees all. This all knowing One is able to be a righteous judge.

He wears many Diadems – crowns. – they symbolize that He is ruler over all. Universal sovereignty.

One obvious question from this passage is...

WHOSE BLOOD??

There are various thoughts on that, and it deserves more time than I’d like to spend on Christmas morning, so hold that question until next year.

He is the Word of God,

This is a name not found except in Revelation but is highly significant in John's Gospel: Victory is assured for this Divine warrior.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:1, 14; see Heb. 1:2-4).

Heb 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.

"Word of the Father now in flesh appearing."

"Veiled in flesh the godhead see, hail the Incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel."

He is uniquely qualified, by virtue of his divine nature, to reveal the Father (John 14:9-11).

For this morning, we close with

HIS FINAL NAME...

Luke 1: 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.

He is the "King of kings and Lord of lords," whose sovereignty secures his victory over the beasts and their followers (17:12-14; see Deut. 10:17; Dan. 2:47; 1 Tim 6:15).

If you were elated or deflated by what was under the tree or what you anticipate is under the tree, or you are elated or deflated by what is going on in the world, take this text to heart.

If you are elated, inflated, or deflated this morning, you need an APOCALYPSE, i.e. an unveiling of who Christ is and the eternal HOPE that is ours in Him.

When we understand the message of this book, we have good reasons to be encouraged because Jesus will win.

Revelation 19 means that no matter who the spirit of the age raises up against us, he or she is ultimately on a leash and THE King of Kings and Lord of Lords WILL PREVAIL.

A reminder of that good news is the best Christmas present we could get, and we have another reminder of the good news presented before us here at the TABLE.

We feed spiritually on Christ who gave Himself for us.

This Table is a foretaste of the GREAT MARRIAGE SUPPER that we will celebrate when Jesus returns in glory.

Come TO THE TABLE

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