

Prophecy Sermon #6

MCBC Hutchinson, KS July 11, 2004

Turn to Matthew 24/Revelation 19

The Olivet Discourse

This is probably the most important single passage of prophecy in all the Bible.

It is given by Jesus Himself and it provides the master outline of end-time events.

The Man of Sin (Antichrist) will come, and he will be on the scene, then the Son of Man (Jesus Christ) will come.

I've entitled today's message "The Son of Man Is Coming, Part I"

Matthew 24:27 – let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

Matthew 24:27-32a

Let us pray

You may be seated

"The Son of Man Is Coming"

Matthew 24:27

Jesus assures them, His coming will not be stretched over a long period of time but will be quick, sudden, public, visible, universal, and unimaginably glorious.

When Christ returns with the saints and angels, He will come so boldly, so visibly, so publicly, like lightning, that everybody will know it.

So Jews in that day need not expect to find Him in some secret hideout "in the desert" or "in the secret chambers" (vs. 26).

His rapture of the church is not the same as His return to the earth. The first event is private and quick, as the church is caught up to meet Him in the air. The second event is public, every eye shall see Him when He returns to defeat Satan and his hosts.

Matthew 24:28

Verse 28 refers to the battle of Armageddon following which the fowls of the air will all be called together to “the supper of the great God,” that is, to feast on the bodies of the men in the army of the Antichrist who will be killed.

Let’s go look at how this come about – Revelation 19

. . . we will look at three things about the return of Jesus that we discover from Revelation 19.

#1 Jesus Is Coming Visibly

Vs. 11

#1 Jesus Is Coming Visibly

Emerging . . . in the heavens appeared a great white horse and a majestic Rider

It will be a real event in history. Jesus ascended into heaven literally and visibly. And He is coming back literally and visibly.

What a thrilling scene this is! It is the coming of Christ to the earth.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem . . . before His crucifixion, the crowds threw palm branches . . . and . . . shouting, “Hail Him! Hail Him!” And yet, in a few days this same crowd would yell, “Nail Him! Nail Him!”

Do you remember what Jesus was riding through the streets of Jerusalem? A lowly donkey. But when He comes the second time, He will be riding a white charger, which is a symbol of victory, honor, and conquest.

Acts 1:9-11, “And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, ‘Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.’”

Revelation 1:7 says, “Behold! He cometh with clouds, and every eye will see Him.” This is certain. . . . every soul on earth, on that day, will see Him.

In vs. 11, He is called “Faithful” because He has come to execute the long-time program of God. . . . He is the only One you and I can trust and rest upon.

He is called “True” . . . He is not one who just tells the truth, although He does that; He is the bureau of standards of truth. He is the yardstick of truth. He is the Truth. How wonderful it is to have Someone in whom to trust in this day when everything we hear is slanted and used as propaganda.

Vs. 12

Not only is Jesus coming visibly, **Jesus Is Coming Victoriously**

There is no room for doubt as to the identity of this conquering Commander on the great white steed (a warhorse). His eyes are the same eyes of flame John had seen in the beginning of this book.

Revelation 1:14, “His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire.”

Notice, He is wearing many crowns, . . . it is the Greek word *diadema*, which means a regal crown that kings wear. . . No longer does He wear a crown formed from the briars of this world.

The crowns He is wearing here as He parades in triumph are the crowns, the diadems, which had once been usurped by the kings of the earth – but no longer.

I am looking forward to seeing my Savior wear those crowns and singing “Crown Him with Many Crowns.”

Vs. 13

Most Bible scholars think this is the blood from His enemies and Isaiah 63 refers to it and it may be that. Instead, I think this is a reminder of His precious blood spilled at Calvary because He has not tread the enemies yet. He will wear this blood stain forever as an remembrance of His sacrifice.

Vs. 14

Like a mighty general . . . the victorious Rider is followed by a tremendous stream of warriors, all in gleaming white uniforms and all on beautiful white horses.

Who are these armies? They are the saints who make up the bride of Christ. He is coming with His church. White linen represents the righteousness of the saints (vs. 8).

Christians should not be waiting for the tribulation; we should be looking for Jesus in the rapture, and we will come back with Him at the end of the Tribulation Period.

Jesus will be riding on a white horse when He comes with His church in tow.

Christ must come FOR His saints before He returns WITH His saints.

Vs. 15

Isaiah 11:4 teaches that Jesus will come and judge in righteousness. He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth and with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked.

II Thessalonians 2:8

When Jesus Christ returns, He will judge Antichrist by “the spirit of His mouth . . . and the brightness (lightening) of His coming.” The verbs “consume” and “destroy” do not mean annihilate. The Lord Jesus will overthrow Antichrist with the breath of His mouth, and bring an end to his operations by the outshining of His presence.

This powerful person, energized by Satan, will be destroyed by the mere **breath of the Lord Jesus**. Antichrist may control mankind, but he will be no match for Messiah. Jesus is Lord indeed. “The very breathing of the glorified Jesus will slay the lawless one like the blast of a fiery furnace.” . . . The shining forth of Christ’s presence . . . will immobilize the Antichrist as certainly as . . . Christ on the Damascus Road stopped Saul in his tracks and terminated his program of fighting against God.

Vs. 15 – The “sword” is a long, broad cutlass . . . here of course it refers to the fiery words of judgment from the Lord.

“The sword which came forth out of his mouth.” What is that sword? . . . (Heb. 4:12 – For the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any 2 edged sword). Ephesians 6:17 says to take the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.

Do you notice how clearly this symbol is explained by Scripture? The “sword” that comes from the mouth of Jesus is His Word. It was His Word that created this universe. It is the Word of God that will save us. And it will be the Word of God that will destroy the wicked at the end of the age.

Here is the scene that will prevail at the battle of Armageddon.

Suddenly, there will be an invasion from outer space. Here comes Jesus riding a snow-white horse . . . He is followed by wave after wave of armies—not dressed in battle fatigues or carrying weapons, but robed in white. In His mouth will be a sharp two-edged sword (the Word of God) to strike the nations.

All Jesus has to do is speak, and the battle is won. Have you ever thought of the power of the voice of our Lord? He spoke, and the universe came into existence. Hebrews 11:3 says the worlds were framed by the Word of God.

Now, notice vs. 15 again

The winepress depicts the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. . . . The word here for “wrath” is also rendered “anger,” “indignation” and “vengeance.” Thus these words express with doubled intensity the unleashed ferocity of a long-suffering God.

Vs. 16

This is His return to the earth in glory and judgment.

He has come to judge and make war.

And His rulership is going to be a dictatorship—a chicken won’t peep, a rooster won’t crow, and a man will not move without His permission. He is the King of kings and He is the Lord of lords.

Jesus Christ will be the Pastor. It will be a dictatorship of love, but a dictatorship nonetheless.

“King of kings” corresponds to the Gospel of Matthew . . . Matthew presents Christ as the King. He was rejected and crucified in Matthew, but in Revelation, He will rule and reign.

Vs. 17

Now an invitation is issued to a feast, the supper of the great God. Those invited are the birds of prey and the carrion-eating fowl from all over the world, and their dinner is to be the flesh and blood of the slain multitudes at Armageddon.

The call is to a great gathering-together of the birds of the air.

Vs. 18

Thus will the haughtiness of men be brought low.

Revelation 6:15-17

Vs. 19

The Antichrist persuaded all the kings of the earth to send their armies.

Where did they gather? In the valley of Armageddon.

Revelation 16:16 – this is the only occurrence of the word “Armageddon” in all of Scripture.

Armageddon, which literally means “Mount of Megiddo,” includes a valley called the Valley of Jezreel and three mountains called Mount Carmel, Mount Tabor, and Mount Gilboa. Many leaders have fought battles here, including Napoleon, who said. “This is the world’s greatest natural battlefield.” Other leaders who have fought here include Titus, Pompey, Richard the Lionheart, Nebuchadnezzar, and Rameses.

The hill of Megiddo, . . . ten miles south of Nazareth, fifteen miles – Mediterranean seacoast – many of Israel’s battle had been fought . . . Gideon triumphed over the Midianites (Judges 7). . . Saul was slain in the battle with the Philistines (I Sam. 31:8).

The Mount of Megiddo . . . was an ancient crossroads where trade caravans traveled back and forth. Whoever controlled Megiddo controlled the land, the trade, and the commerce of that day. The Bible says that the last great war will be fought there. And this war will end all wars.

This is the last time the beast and the kings of the earth will be seen together (vs. 20).

They are all gathered together at Armageddon, . . . extending in great multitudes down past the Dead Sea . . . awaiting the coming of Christ and His army of saints from heaven.

“Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision” (Joel 3:14). This valley is also called the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:2).

In Isaiah 34 and 63, the Bible pictures the Lord coming from Edom, south of Jerusalem, when He returns for the judgment. Jerusalem itself is seen to be the center of conflict.

Thus the campaign is pictured as extending from the plains of Esdraelon on the north, down through Jerusalem, extending out to the valley of Jehoshaphat on the east and to Edom on the south.

The answer to this world's problems, beyond a shadow of any doubt, is the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is coming visibly. He is coming victoriously.

The Lord Jesus Is Coming Vengefully

Vs. 20

The apostle John sees all the nations being drawn like a magnet to the land of the chosen people, he must sense the enormity of the calamity.

How unspeakably terrifying, then, to see their great leaders suddenly and unceremoniously snatched from their midst! These two mighty men, the most powerful and most feared men in all the world, were gone.

They were suddenly seized and translated at unimaginable speed to a vast fiery lake boiling with brimstone. There, while still alive in their human bodies of flesh and blood, they were hurled into the flaming cauldron, where they would remain throughout eternity.

This is the first specific mention in Scripture of the lake of fire.

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself spoke of this place of “everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41) and it is also prepared for any of those who will not receive Christ.

Vs. 21

Thus the Lord destroys every hostile force that would challenge His right to rule as Messiah over the earth.

Ezekiel pictures this when he says the invaders will “cover the land” (Ezek. 38:9, 16) It will be nothing less than the sudden spilling of blood.

Revelation 14:14-20

The Book of Revelation says the blood will flow to the bits of the horse bridles (4 ½ feet in the center of its flow) and it has been pointed out the vat of blood flowing is 1,600 furlongs which covers the entire length of Israel – Armageddon – 180 miles.

The bloodshed is so massive and so quick that the only apt comparison is the spurting of the juice from tremendous clusters of ripe fruit beneath the feet of the grape-tramplers in a winepress. Jesus is doing the pressing.

The bodies suddenly explode like bursting grapes, . . . the blood pours from a million fountains.

The bodies quickly are awash in their own blood, and will soon become carrion for the waiting flocks of vultures that darken the sky. Thus shall be the unspeakable end of those who worship the beast and receive his mark.

A mighty cutting wind sweeps across their ranks . . . Like grapes trampled in a winepress, the blood bursts from their veins and death is instantaneous. Soon the great trough is flowing with blood and He treads the winepress alone.

The spirits of the slain multitudes depart into Hades, there to await the judgment at the great white throne.

This is the great climactic battle of the ages.

Then will the great cloud of ravenous birds swoop down from the heavens, gorging themselves on the flesh and blood of the once high-and-mighty rebels against a long-suffering God.

The terrible scene of carnage and death depicted in these verses may at first offend the sensibilities of those who think God only as a loving and patronizing grandfather. He is indeed a God of great mercy and forgiveness, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. His love for a lost world is so great that as the sacrificial Lamb of God He suffered and died on the cross to save men from their sins.

But when they adamantly refuse His salvation, denying His Word and blaspheming His name, there must one day come a time of reckoning. God is a God of vengeance and justice.

Jesus is coming vengefully to make things right.

Keep in mind that God has a timetable.

Jesus Christ will return “in power and great glory” and take Antichrist and his associates prisoner—and also Satan—and cast them into the bottomless pit (Rev. 20:1-2). This will be the climax of the great battle of Armageddon (Rev. 14:11).

Soon and very soon, 777 will take care of 666, and the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Are you at peace with God, or are you at war with God?

You can sign a peace treaty with the Prince of Peace if you will say yes to Calvary.

God gives mercy right now – take it while it's available.

Put your faith and trust in Him – forsake your sins, sinful lifestyle.

Say “yes” to Christ – He died for your sins – was buried and rose again.

Believe on Him today – trust Him as your Savior.

Pray right now – don't delay.

Call on Him – ask Him to forgive your sin and save your soul.

My friend, it is frightful to rebel against God because He is going to judge . . . someday.

Believer, I hope we saw God and how awesome He is.

Sing something that should make more sense to you – Hymn #569, “The Battle Hymn of the Republic”

Outcome: Excitement, power of God – don't mess with God.