

The True Triumphal Entry, part 2

Revelation 19:11-16

(preached Pine Grove 9/10/17; Sunday AM)

Introduction

Sometime in the late 1980s, an ad appeared in the Whitmire News that a circus was coming to our little town...

I was a teenager past the point of really being the right age for a circus, but it struck my curiosity...

A circus in Whitmire?

Well, the only circus I had ever been exposed to was Ringling Brothers Circus and we had to drive to Greenville to see it when I was younger...

But it was awesome...

The high wire. The flying trapeze artists..

Lions and tigers and clowns and the whole nine yards..

So, I was shocked to learn that a circus was coming to Whitmire...

Now the ad in the paper had some pictures...

Lions and elephants...

It had a man on a motorcycle inside a steel cage..

It had a high wire..

Even as a teenager, I got a little excited to think that a circus was coming to our little mill town..

So, I bought a ticket that only cost \$10...

And I waited to for the day to arrive...

Well, the circus got into town on a Thursday afternoon..

They settled into a vacant lot on the outskirts of town, and people literally showed up to watch them put up the tent...

Now, this is where the excitement began to fade a little..

Because the tent was half the size I pictured...

And it wasn't a bright brand new red and white tent, but a dirty green and yellow tent..

And it didn't take days to put up...

Just a few hours..

But that wasn't all..

When the Friday night came for the circus to open the gates and let people in, we didn't find a ring circus but a one ring circus..

We didn't see a man on a motorcycle but clowns on mini bikes..

We didn't have men sticking their heads into the mouths of lions...

Instead they had 5 dogs that they had trained to push shopping carts around the circle...

There was no high wire but a low wire that a woman with an umbrella walked across..

Needless to say, the circus was a let down for the town..

All the ads promoting the circus had painted the picture of a coming circus that was just like the big city circuses...

All the ads filled people with anticipation, but the anticipation quickly turned to disappointment when the reality set in...

Yet, this is life...

We live in anticipation of coming events for days, weeks or even months, but the reality of those events are often less than we anticipated...

This will not be the case when Christ comes to town..

In fact, the anticipation of the event will be far less than the reality of the event...

The buildup to the second coming will be surpassed by the arrival of Christ..

In other words, the description of the Second Coming will pale in comparison to the day when heaven opens and Jesus comes to the earth...

It will not be a circus that day, but a grand celebration for all who belong to Him...

And the joy for us the past few weeks is that we are able to read and study and imagine the Second Coming before the day happens..

Because in Revelation 19, God inspired John to give us a preview of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ...

And we began that look at this world changing event last week by looking at 3 reasons to look forward to the Second Coming of Christ...

Today, I want to add to those reasons by finishing up our look at verses 11-16 of Revelation 19...

So, let me read this for us again to get our minds back on this most incredible and glorious event...

Revelation 19:11...

11 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 [d]rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the [e]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."

Now to refresh our memories, Revelation 19 marks the end of world history as we know...

7 years prior to this Second Coming of Christ, the church met Jesus in the air and was raptured to heaven, where it has been for 7 years waiting for the next exit of Jesus from heaven to go and claim the earth for himself...

This time Jesus will not be above the earth but will set foot upon the earth like He did in his first coming 2000 years ago...

In the lead up to this second coming, the past 7 years on earth have been very difficult...

We have read about these 7 years on earth in the book of Revelation...

They are most commonly called the tribulation period of end times...

And they have been filled with judgments from God poured out over the earth...

Hailstones weighing a 100 pounds..

Meteor showers...

Worldwide famine and disease and death...

A global government of evil empowered by Satan..

A global religion led by the false prophet...

A global evil economy ran by the Antichrist...

Yet, all of those judgments are ending and the empire of evil is crumbling..

There is but one judgment left to come and that is the return of the true king, ruler and owner of this world...

And we are at this point in Revelation 19...

Last week, I offered 3 reasons why believers would look forward to the Second Coming...

- I. **The Second Coming Proves the Truthfulness of God's Word (11a)**
- II. **The Second Coming Brings Justice to All (11b)**
- III. **The Second Coming Elects the Greatest World Leader (12a)**

Let's now add to that list by finishing our look at verses 11-16 this morning...

A fourth reason to look forward to the Second Coming is this...

IV. The Second Coming Reveals Christ's Glory (12b-13)

As John looks at the hole in heaven that allows Jesus to exit on a white horse with eyes of flaming fire and wearing many crowns, John also notices something else about Jesus at the end of verse 12...

He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.

Well, I studied this all week and do you want to know what that name is?

I don't know...

Only Jesus knows what it will be...

We dont even know where it was written on Jesus...

Makes the most sense to see it on his forehead since John was just noticing his eyes and the crowns on his head, but I am not even sure about that...

Now this is the third name of Jesus that is mentioned here...

The first was FAITHFUL and the second was TRUE, but this one is simply a mystery to us all...

And what can we learn from that?

Well, the greatest lesson from this may be a reminder that as much as we know about Christ from the Bible, there is still more to be revealed...

There is a name on Him in that day that we won't know until that day...

John saw it but couldn't make sense of it...

Maybe it was obscured or couldn't be understood by John...

We just know that a mysterious name will be on Christ at the Second Coming...

And look, I am okay with that...

If I knew everything about Christ, I would grow tired of him..

But there is much I don't know, so I am looking forward to finding out...

We also see more of Christ's glory in what He will be wearing...

Verse 13 describes Jesus in a robe dipped in blood...

13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood,....

Many people see blood and automatically assume it is Jesus' blood spilled on the cross...

But I don't see that here...

Jesus is not coming to redeem but to make war...

This is the blood of judgment that he wears...

This is he blood of his enemies that he will spill..

Jesus is not coming to redeem and save through his blood, Jesus is leaving heaven to spill the blood of all who have rejected Him...

We then see a fourth name associated with Christ at His Second Coming...

“...and His name is called The Word of God.”

At the end of verse 13, the returning Christ is called the Word of God...

Couple thoughts...

One, Jesus has been called the Word before...

John began his gospel by saying, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.”

Then he later wrote that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...

So, Christ has been called the Word...

Second, the Word of God is a great way to think about Christ..

He is the image of God, the word of God come to human flesh...

God’s word in Genesis 3 promised someone to come and crush the head of the serpent...

Jesus is the fulfillment of that promise...

We tell people all the time...

I give you my word that I will be there...

And when we actually show up, our presence is the fulfillment of our word...

Christ is the word of God...

He was in His First Coming..

And he will be in His Second Coming as well...

The Word of God is seen in the Son of God...

A 5th reason to look forward to the Second Coming is found in verse 14...

V. The Second Coming Esteems the Saints (14)

14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.

As heaven opens to let Jesus out, it stays open to allow his army to follow him back to the earth...

Now, what is this army and who is in it?

Well, we get a clue in what they are wearing...

According to verse 14, this army is not in camouflage but in fine clean linen...

That should ring a bell...

Look back up in verse 8...

At the marriage supper of the lamb, the bride of Christ comes to the marriage supper of the lamb dressed in fine linen, bright and clean...

And who is the bride of Christ?

Well, that is clear in the Bible...

It is the church..

The bride will sit to eat and then mount a horse in her bridal dress and head out of heaven to follow her groom back to earth...

Now, I personally believe all the inhabitants of heaven will be in this army as well..

OT saints are not a part of the church, but they will be in this army...

The same can be said of tribulation saints...

They weren't saved when the church was raptured, but they got saved in the tribulation only to be killed in this incredible time of evil...

I believe they will also be a part of this army...

I would even include the angels of heaven...

Now two things...

#1 - Jesus doesn't need an army of at all...

He only needs to speak a word, and his word will be enough..

In fact, white linen doesn't sound much like fighting clothes...

Where are the weapons and the bullet proof vests?

Well, Jesus is going to do all the fighting, but also this army is dressed in immortality...

They have a body that will never die...

So, no one needs a weapon or a uniform...

#2 - The saints finally experience victory..

For all the years that the world has persecuted the church...

For all the torture and beatings and death sentences imposed on believers by the world...

It is past time for the church persecuted to be the church victorious..

It is time for tortured believers to be triumphant believers...

And in this day at this time, the church will not be under attack but will be behind the attack...

This is the picture I keep in my mind when the world appears to be winning and the the true church seems to be crumbling....

This is what I hold on to when the going gets tough and discouragement sets in...

Though the church lives now under the darkness of night, we will mount a white horse of light and ride triumphantly into the world behind our Savior...

I'll never forget a certain boy in our class who always got picked last for any sports team we had at school...

He didn't have many friends...

Well every year was the Christmas parade and our school always did a big float, and the best part was getting to ride on that float and throwing out candy..

And since everyone wanted to ride the float, the school simply picked a student at random to ride on it and represent the school..

You got a shirt and a hat and you got all the candy you wanted and you got to throw it to the crowd....

Well, that boy was randomly selected and I'll never forget seeing him on that float, riding high in that new shirt and hat and throwing out candy..

No more being picked last for him...

No more shame and embarrassment...

Every kid at our school wanted to be like him on that day..

That's a picture the church at the second coming...

No more being called names like fundamentalist and Bible thumper...

Now more insults over believing in a God that no one can see...

No more news stories on how the church is simply holding on to legends and myths...

In that day, we will be behind our God riding in the greatest parade the world has ever seen..

I have only ridden a horse on a couple of occasions and neither were pleasant experiences...

Yet on that day, on that horse, it will ride better than cadillac with a new set of tires...

Let's now move to a 6th reason to look forward to the second coming in verses 15-16...

VI. The Second Coming Establishes the Kingdom (15-16)

Verse 15...

15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will [d]rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the [e]wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

In case you were wondering,....

As heaven opens and Jesus and his army heads to earth, He will not find a welcoming party ready to install him as King of the World...

Instead, what he will find a world that has gathered to wage war against him....

Skip down to verse 19 for a minute...

19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

We will talk more about this gathering of the Antichrist and the armies of the world next week, but what Jesus finds at his Second Coming is not a world ready to receive Him..

Therefore, Jesus comes to make war but it is the shortest war in the history of the world because he simply speaks and the armies of the world fall..

That my friends is the power of the word of God..

You sit in here today listening to the Word of God, and though you may say...

“Where’s the power in it?”

It doesn’t seem to affect me too much...

I can barely stay awake..

I find my mind wandering..

I am constantly daydreaming..

Well, I assure that the word doesn't go out with having any effect...

Though it softens some of us as we listen, it hardens others...

Because the word of God is simply that powerful ...

Wherever it goes out, it either hardens or softens...

In the day that the word goes out of Jesus mouth at the Second Coming, it destroys...

Ever watched a line of dominoes fall, that will be the scene in the valley of Armageddon when Jesus comes and speaks to the armies of the his enemies...

They will fall like dominoes as His word moves across the land...

And the reason he destroys the nations is to establish his rule in the world...

Jesus is about to begin his 1000 year reign upon the earth, and like other kings before him, he must eliminate all his enemies...

And that is exactly what he does here in verse 15...

His enemies will go in the winepress like grapes and Jesus will trample them under his foot until their blood flows like grape juice in the vat..

This is the picture of triumph and victory, and it doesn't come as a result of a long bloody battle...

It is over in an instant as Jesus speaks and the nations fall...

And then we see the titles given to the victorious Christ in verse 16...

16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

The fifth and sixth names given to Christ in these 6 verses are titles of royalty and supremacy..

Christ has been called Faithful and True..

Christ has been given a name of mystery...

Christ has been called the word of God...

And now as he destroys his enemies and prepares to rule the entire globe, Christ has set himself as the King of all kings and the Lord of all lords...

He is clearly head and shoulders above any king that this world has ever seen...

And he clearly holds more authority than any leader in this world has ever held....

And one day that kingship and lordship will be on full display for all the world to see...

So what is your response to the Second Coming and the reality that all the nations will bow to the rule of Christ.

I am so glad you asked...

Conclusion

Take your Bibles and turn to the book of Psalms...

Psalms 2 is where we will end this morning...

Psalms 2 was written hundreds of years before John wrote Revelation 19...

But the author of both was the same...

So, let's read it together...

***1 Why are the [a]nations in an uproar
And the peoples devising a vain thing?***

2

***The kings of the earth take their stand
And the rulers take counsel together
Against the Lord and against His [b]Anointed, saying,***

3

***"Let us tear their fetters apart
And cast away their cords from us!"***

This will be the delusional thinking of the Antichrist and false prophet and Satan at the end of the 7 year tribulation period..

They will rally the nations of the world together in Israel
in hopes of casting God's cords off their lives...

And some of you have that same desire this morning..

I wish I could just free myself from the conviction of
God's laws in my life...

I wish my Christian spouse would just hush..

I wish this man preaching the Word of God would just
go away...

You see the human heart doesn't want a king or a lord...

The human heart wants to be its own king and lord..

So the desire is always there to be free from God's
authority...

And at the end of time, man led by Satan and the
Antichrist will try to rid the world of God and his
authority...

And they will gather to fight against God...

Verse 4...

4

*He who [c]sits in the heavens laughs,
The Lord scoffs at them.*

5

*Then He will speak to them in His anger
And terrify them in His fury, saying,*

6

*“But as for Me, I have [d]installed My King
Upon Zion, My holy mountain.”*

7

*“I will surely tell of the [e]decree of the Lord:
He said to Me, ‘You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.*

8

*‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the [f]nations as Your
inheritance,
And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.*

9

*‘You shall [g]break them with a [h]rod of iron,
You shall shatter them like [i]earthenware.’”*

God’s response to man’s desire to be free from His rule...

He laughs and it filled with rage..

And his plan to end their rebellion will be to put His Son on a throne to rule the world...

So what hope is there?

How should we respond today to the truth that Christ is coming as King and Lord?

Verse 10...

10

***Now therefore, O kings, show discernment;
Take warning, O [j]judges of the earth.***

11

***[k]Worship the Lord with [l]reverence
And rejoice with trembling.***

12

***[m]Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry,
and you perish in the way,
For His wrath may [n]soon be kindled.
How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!***

The right response to Jesus as Lord is to bow your knee to Christ and do homage to Him..

Some translations say, “Kiss the Son so that he won’t be angry with you when He comes.”

How do you show honor to Christ?

Give up the sins that your love more than Him by repenting of them...

Then take that love that you have for your sin and put it on Christ..

Trust in his death as your Substitute, and devote your life to Christ...

Read His Word...

Fill your mind with the knowledge of who He is and walk in obedience to Him the rest of your life...

The Second Coming is coming..

On that day, it will be too late to trust in Christ...

On that day, God will laugh at all who have rejected him...

Today is the day to honor Christ with your life..

Repent now and trust now before heaven opens and Christ returns and you see His anger and perish in the way..

Let us pray.