

## **The True Triumphal Entry**

Revelation 19:11-16

(preached Pine Grove 9/3/17; Sunday AM)

### **Introduction**

The events in the Houston area over the past weeks are incredible...

Water that is measured in feet and not inches is impossible to imagine...

The pictures out of there are simply incredible to comprehend...

Yet, the fortunate thing is that though the flooding is horrible and there have been deaths associated with the flooding and houses lost and property destroyed...

The fortunate thing is that it has been confined to the Houston area...

Though Louisiana is also experiencing floods, the great blessing is that this natural disaster is confined to a small area of the world in terms of the entire planet...

Yes, the deaths are bad...

Yes, the loss of homes and property is discouraging...

But thank the Lord that the effects of hurricane Harvey has weakened and the storm has slowly fizzled out...

Because imagine if the storm were bigger and the storm lasted for a months or even years...

Can you imagine the devastation it would cause and the lives that would be lost...

Well if you have been with us in the book of Revelation, you know what widespread destruction looks like...

You know what global natural disasters look like...

You have seen incredible earthquakes, meteor showers, 100 pound hailstones that will fill the entire earth...

You see, localized natural disasters like the one in Houston are just tiny previews of what the final years of world history will look like..

It will be mass hysteria in every part of the world...

People often ask me, “will things ever get better preacher?”

And the answer to that is no and yes...

The “No” part is that things will continue to decline in this world..

Natural disasters will occur with greater frequency....

Crime will continue to skyrocket..

Sin will continue to rise...

This is the pattern of the world, but as the end of human history approaches, these things will begin to spiral out of control...

You already see that in our own nation...

Hatred and violence in the streets...

Crimes committed with more frequency...

Sin getting more and more frequent and more and more normal...

So, my friends, I have to tell you that things will not get better...

And that is not my opinion...

That is the teaching of the Bible..

However, there is good news...

Things will get better...

And it wont be a gradual getting better...

It wont take years or even months but only a matter of seconds, and the thrill for our hearts this morning is that we get to read about this drastic improvement today in Revelation 19:11-16...

Look with me at verse 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."***

Two events changed world history...

The first event was the first coming of Christ to the earth...

When he came in the stillness of the night in a manger in Bethlehem...

In his first coming, Jesus did come on a white horse in all his glory...

Instead, he was born, lived a sinless life, and then mounted a donkey to ride it into Jerusalem where he was crucified on a cross...

The second event that changes world history is the second coming of Jesus Christ to the earth...

This time, he doesn't arrive unnoticed in a manger...

This time, heaven opens up and all the world sees his return...

The first coming, he came as a lamb to be slain..

The second coming, he comes as a lion to roar and rule...

You see, all of human history revolves around the two visits that Jesus has made to this earth...

This morning, you sit between those comings...

You are 2000 years beyond the first coming, but you are very close to the second coming...

And my question to you this morning is this...

What will the second coming of Jesus Christ mean to you?

Will it be a time of joy or sorrow for you?

Will it be a time of peace or judgment for you?

Are you eagerly awaiting that second coming or dreadfully fearing it?

Well, this morning we are going to look at \_\_\_\_ reasons to look forward to the Second Coming of Christ from Revelation 19:11-16..

The first reason to look forward to the Second Coming of Christ is this..

## **I. The Second Coming Proves the Truthfulness of God's Word (11a)**

As we get to verses 11-16, we leave the scene of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in verses 7-10...

As we learned last week, this marriage supper that celebrates Jesus' marriage to his church is the high point in church history...

When the church is raptured to heaven before the start of the 7 year tribulation period on earth, it is the picture of a Jewish groom coming to get his bride and take her to their new home...

And for 7 years, the church will be Christ in heaven and enjoying the fellowship with all believers of all time..

But as the 7 year tribulation draws to a close on earth, the marriage ceremony draws to a close in heaven with the largest sit down meal of all time...

A meal known as the Marriage Supper of the Lamb...

Where Christ is officially married to his church...

I personally believe this marriage supper starts in heaven but it will eventually spill to the earth as Jesus sets up his kingdom on this earth...

And it will continue for all 1000 years on the earth as the groom becomes king of the earth...

However, before that happens, Jesus the groom must return to earth as Jesus the warrior to make the earth ready for this celebration...

And this return is what occurs in verses 11-16...

In verse 11, our tour guide for the book of Revelation, - the apostle John, sees something...

He sees heaven standing open...

Now heaven has been open before in the Bible...

Stephen was able to look into heaven as he was being stoned in the book of Acts...

Paul was taken to heaven during his lifetime...

John was taken to heaven in Revelation 4...

But this time heaven doesn't open up to let someone in, heaven opens up to let Jesus out...

The one who sits at the right hand of the Father is simply waiting for two commands...



The first command is for Jesus to come out of heaven and wait in the air to rapture the church out of this world before all hell breaks loose...

The second command will come 7 years later, and it will be to rise and mount a white horse and head back to the earth...

This time, he won't hang in the air and call the church to heaven..

This time, he will go to the earth, plant his feet on the earth and lay claim to the earth for all time...

As the groom enjoys his meal with his bride in heaven, the call will come for Christ to get up from that meal and take the celebration to earth...

And heaven will open for Jesus' Second Coming...

Notice the names given to Jesus here in verse 11...

Faithful and True...

These are many titles for Jesus Christ...

But as he exits heaven and heads to the earth a second time, faithful are true are the best titles, and here is why...

If you read the Bible from cover to cover, you will find 1,527 verses in the OT and 330 verses in the NT that speak of Jesus' Second Coming...

The only subject in the whole Bible that is talked about more than the Second Coming of Christ is the word "faith."

Though the Bible speaks of Jesus' first coming over 200 times, the Bible speaks 8 times as much about the Second Coming...

Jesus talked about his Second Coming 21 times, and over 50 times, his people are told to be ready for it...

So, when heaven does open and Jesus heads to earth a second time, the Bible will once again be proven true..

And God's word will once again be proven faithful and trustworthy....

One sad reality of the current mood in today's church is the lack of excitement over the Second Coming of Christ...

I feel that many people in the church have more of a "who cares" mentality about the Second Coming...

I have even heard Christians say things like, “I hope Jesus doesn’t come back until I get moved into my new house or take my vacation next week.”

What a sad day in the church when the people of God want more of a fallen world than a world where Christ returns to rule...

The Bible is clear that all true believers are those who “love Jesus’ appearing”...

That’s 2 Tim 4:8...

And look there are plenty of reasons to love the Second Coming of Christ...

But one clear reason to love the Second Coming is that Jesus’ return will prove the trueness and faithfulness of the word of God...

I am so sick and tired of the world attacking the word of God...

Don’t get me wrong.... I expect the attacks....

The first attack in the Bible was on the word of God where Satan tempted eve to doubt what God said...

And those attacks have continued throughout all of history...

The Word of God has been assaulted and questioned and rejected for centuries....

But I grow tired of the insults and attacks...

Though I try to show people that the Bible is 100% accurate, error free and trustworthy, the attacks continue to come..

Though I explain to people that the truthfulness of the Bible can be defended through history, science, reason and experience, the attacks always come...

However, when Jesus departs heaven and heads to earth a Second Time, the word of God will be proven true once again...

And hundreds of verses come true right before the doubting eyes of the unbelieving world when Jesus makes his second list to earth...

I will never forget the day I kept telling my buddies that I was getting a new set of golf clubs...

I had always played with older sets of clubs and putters that my grandad cut down for me, but he had told me that we were headed to Greenville to get me a new set of clubs...

I told all my golfing friends, and they were like “yeah right” since they knew my grandad was kinda tight...

But the truth is that he took me to Greenville, let me pick out a set of clubs and bought them and a new bag for me all in one day...

I will never forget walking up the next day with those clubs on my shoulder...

Look, I didn't have to say a word...

My face had “I told you so” written all over it...

When heaven opens and Jesus comes, there will be one big “I told you so” coming out of the mouths of the people of God...

All of our years of pointing people to the word of God and begging them to believe it will be proven true before the eyes of the world..

I am ready for that day...

The second reason to look forward to the Second Coming is this...

## **II. The Second Coming Brings Justice to All (11b)**

When we recite the pledge of allegiance to the American flag, we declare that the United States is place where liberty and justice are extended to all....

And as nice as that sounds, it isn't 100% true...

There are lots of cases of restricted liberty and even more cases of injustice in our nation...

Sometimes, guilty people are found innocent and innocent people are found guilty...

There has never been a nation with perfect justice...

Our world and the people in it are just too fallen to always render perfect justice...

Now, I am grateful for a justice system that gets it right most of the time, but even I realize that even a little injustice is bad, especially if it comes to you...

Yet, when heaven opens and Jesus returns to earth a second time, perfect justice will come with him...

In that day, the ones that Jesus declares guilty will all be guilty and the ones that Jesus declare innocent will all be innocent...

The court systems of the world will no longer be needed because the Supreme Judge has come and no one will ever experience injustice again...

There won't be an appeals court because all decisions will be right and final...

That will be a good day for all involved...

It is time for the evil people of the world to be brought to justice for their crimes, and it is the for those unfairly treated to be rewarded...

Now notice that Jesus as judge means that Jesus must wage war as well...

And why is that?

Because true justice involves freedom for the innocent and punishment for the guilty....

Therefore the war is an act of punishment on all who are guilty before God...

Satan will have to fall, the Antichrist will have to be defeated, the false prophet must go, and so must all who have rejected the gospel of Christ and followed these evil men..

War must come because God still has enemies that want to overthrow him...

And Jesus will judge them guilty of rejecting God, and he will wage the shortest and quickest war against them at his Second Coming...

Now, this may shock you to hear of Jesus described as a judge and warrior...

We live in a culture that tries to pound into our heads that it is never right to judge anyone....

We are told that making judgments is the worst sin imaginable...

And Jesus didn't come to judge but to love...

But if that is your view of Christ, you haven't read the Bible....

Though Christ is humble and meek and compassionate and kind and filled with love, He is also filled with judgment and will wage war on all who reject Him...

It is so sad that Christians fall for the world's way of thinking, and see Christ as nothing but meek and mild mannered who would never utter a word of judgment...



Let me tell you something, Christ is also judge, jury and executioner...

How dare we make into nothing more than a peace loving hippie who wouldn't lift a finger to harm a fly..

Revelation 19 says Jesus will come a second time with eyes blazing in judgment and hands making war against all who reject him...

Our dear Lamb of God is also the dreaded judge and warrior who will destroy all who have failed to bow a knee to Him...

Jesus came a first time in humiliation but he will come a second time in honor...

Jesus came the first time and was judged by men, but he will come a second time and judge all men...

Jesus came a first time and he endured suffering, but he come a second time to bring suffering to his enemies ...

Make no mistake about it church, our Christ is filled love and compassion for all who turn to him, but he filled with justice and war for all who reject Him..

This leads us to verse 12 where we find a 3rd reason to look forward to the Second Coming...

### **III. The Second Coming Elects the Greatest World Leader (12)**

As heaven opens up and Jesus departs on a white horse to bring justice, war and judgment...

John also notice a few more things about this scene in verse 12...

First off, his eyes were ablaze with fire which speaks of judgment but John also sees many crowns on his head...

In the ancient world, kings would wage war against other kings...

The defeated kings would signal the end of the battle by removing their crown and giving it to the victorious king who would place it on his head..

Sometimes the exchange was peaceful, sometimes the conquered king would have to be decapitated to grab his crown...

When Jesus returns a second time, all kings and kingdoms will fall to him...

And all the crowns of all the kings of all the nations will sit upon his head...

The crowns of the Antichrist will come to Christ...

The crowns of the nations of the world will come to Christ...

Now, every government leader doesn't wear a crown, but the point is the same...

All nations, governments, kings, rulers will fall to Christ at the second coming...

The world that rejected him will become the world that is now subjected to His rule....

The one world government that was under the power of the evil antichrist will immediately become the one world government under the rule of righteousness...

The same Jesus who was beaten and spit upon and then fitted for a crown of thorns....

Will come again a second time wearing a crown of triumph....

The crown of pain will become the crown of power...

The crown of shame will become the crown of  
sovereignty....

The crown of rejection will become crown of rule....

The crown of agony will become the crown of glory...

The crown of crucifixion will become the crown of  
control...

## **Conclusion**

There is more to look at here and we will finish it up next week, but let's just take a moment to prepare our hearts for the Lord's table this morning...

You see, this Jesus who is dressed in glory at his Second Coming was dressed in suffering at his First Coming...

I entitled this message, The True Triumphal Entry...

Because each year on the Sunday before Easter, many pastors preach about Jesus' coming into Jerusalem riding on a donkey...

And it is often called the Triumphal Entry...

But there was no triumph there...

Though many showed up to welcome Jesus to Jerusalem, many others didn't....

There were no white horses only a borrowed donkey...

There wasn't fire in Christ's eyes only tears over a city who had rejected Him and his gospel preaching...

He wasn't riding as a judge...

He was riding to His own unjust judgment...

There was no war that he about to wage against his enemies...

Instead, his enemies were about to make war against Him...

Yet, that was the plan of God on that day...

Jesus, God in the flesh, suffered humiliation and rejection and was hung on a cross a few days later...

The triumphal entry was not a triumph in any way, expect one..

And that was the victory that Jesus secured over sin in his first coming...

You see, the triumphal entry was a triumph not for Christ but for us...

As he rode into that city, he could have chosen a white horse...

He could have filled his eyes with flames and destroyed all who had rejected him...

But instead Christ rode to defeat so that we could have victory over sin...

Hallelujah! what Savior...

And this morning, we are going to celebrate the victory that Jesus won over sin as we come to the Lord's Table..

The Lord's Supper is simply a reminder to our hearts of the first coming of Christ..

How he came to suffer and die on cross as a Substitute for every sinner who puts their faith in Him..

And as we eat of the bread and drink of the juice, we rejoice in the fact that they symbolize the body and blood of Christ...

The body and blood that were offered up because Jesus laid down his life in humiliation and shame...

And as we prepare our hearts to take part in this Lord's Supper, we are reminded that that the First Coming of Christ is to be proclaimed until he comes back a second time..

And the reason that we must proclaim his death is because the sinner can find life in Jesus' shameful death..

For many of us in here, we have trusted in the death of Christ for the forgiveness of sin...

We have turned from our sins in repentance and put our faith in Him, and this morning we simply remember the death of Christ that brought life to us...

But I also want to say this...

Our Christ will not be humiliated and shamed forever...

If you think you can sit here this morning and make a mockery of Christ with your life in the same way that he was made a mockery of in his first coming, you are sadly mistaken....

The Christ who left this world in humiliation and rejection will not return in the same way...

The Jesus who left on a defeated donkey will return on a victorious white horse...

And in that day, it will be too late to repent and trust in Him...

I was listening to someone this week explain their rejection of Christ...

They were saying that they didn't care for Christianity but they felt sure that if it were real that they would "simply ask Jesus when he returns to forgive them...."



“Besides,” and listen to this... “Isn’t this what Jesus did the first time he came to earth?”

What a great and deadly assumption they are making...

I will simply anyone in here who may believe that....

Jesus came to save but he returns to judge and punish...

And if you think you can mock and reject Jesus today but ask him to save you when he returns, you are making the greatest mistake in human history....

At the second coming, the donkey will be replaced with white horse....

The crown of thorns will be replaced with a crown of glory...

The shameful triumphal entry will be replaced with the glorious triumphal entry...

And the people who mocked Christ will become the people mocked by Christ...

Don’t be in that crowd this morning...

There will be two kinds of people on the day of the second coming...

Those who come with Christ and those who will be run over by Christ...

Today is the day to join with Christ...

Turn from your sins...

Trust in Christ's death to save you..

And join the crown who will follow Christ on the white horse rather than see that rider and horse in front of them...

Let us pray....