

THE SECOND COMING

Revelation 19:11-21

Revelation 19:11-21 reveals the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to the earth at the end of the 7 year Tribulation. He will come to make war against the Antichrist and False Prophet. In order to fully understand the situation at the time of Jesus' second coming we need to do some review and some supplementing of our passage.

We discovered in Revelation 12 that midway through the 7 year Tribulation, Satan and his demonic forces will be defeated in battle by Michael the Archangel and his angelic forces. As a result, Satan will be cast to the earth (Rev. 12:7-9). Knowing prophecy, Satan will be enraged knowing he has only 3 ½ years before the second coming of Christ to the earth. His rage will be directed at Israel, the Jews, and at the followers of Jesus (Rev. 12:13-17).

Working through the Antichrist and False Prophet Satan's persecution of the Jews will be the most severe in human history. The angel speaking to Daniel described it thus:

Daniel 12:1 (ESV)

¹ *"At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered..."*

Jesus emphasized the severity of this persecution to His disciples:

Matthew 24:15–22 (ESV)

¹⁵ *"So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, ¹⁸ and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. ¹⁹ And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! ²⁰ Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. ²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. ²² And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.*

Revelation 12 reveals that at that time a Remnant of Jews will be supernaturally protected. God will prepare a city of refuge "in the wilderness" (Rev. 12:14). There He will protect and provide for this Remnant for 3 ½ years. Scripture indicates the location of this refuge will be in the mountains of Edom (southern Jordan) in the ancient city of Bozrah (Petra?), (Isa. 33:13-16; Jer. 49:13-16; Micah 2:12).

This Remnant of Jews will not include all the Jews. This Remnant will include the majority of the one-third of the worldwide population of Jews that will survive the Tribulation. Two-thirds of the worldwide population of Jews will not be protected in the city of refuge (Zech. 13:7-9).

This background is meant to help us picture the situation as it will be at the time Jesus comes again.

In the latter days of the Tribulation the Seven Bowl Judgments will be poured out (Rev. 16). The sixth Bowl Judgment will dry up the Euphrates River making it easier for the armies of the kings of the east to gather at Armageddon .

Revelation 16:12–14 (ESV)

¹² *The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. ¹³ And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. ¹⁴ For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.*

¹⁶ *And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.*

Armageddon will be the staging area for a military campaign against the Jews. The Antichrist's first objective will be Jerusalem. From Armageddon his forces will move south against Jerusalem. The Old Testament prophet Zechariah describes this part of the campaign.

Zechariah 12:1-3 (ESV)

¹ *The oracle of the word of the LORD concerning Israel: Thus declares the LORD, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him: ² “Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah. ³ On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it.*

Verses 4-9 reveal that the Jews will fight valiantly and inflict losses upon the Antichrist’s forces but in the end Jerusalem will fall. Zechariah 14:1-3 reveals:

Zechariah 14:1-3 (ESV)

¹ *Behold, a day is coming for the LORD, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. ² For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. ³ Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle.*

From Jerusalem, the forces of the Antichrist will move southeast into the mountains of southern Jordan against the city of refuge. It is here that Jesus will first come and do battle with the forces of the Antichrist. Isaiah 63:1-6 poignantly reveals Jesus’ second coming to deliver the Jewish Remnant at Bozrah.

Isaiah 63:1-6 (ESV)

¹ *Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength?*

“It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save.”

² *Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress?*

³ *“I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel. ⁴ For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and my year of redemption had come. ⁵ I looked, but there was no one to help; I was appalled, but there was no one to uphold; so my own arm brought me salvation, and my wrath upheld me. ⁶ I trampled down the peoples in my anger; I made them drunk in my wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.”*

The second coming of Christ to the earth will be at the city of refuge to deliver the Remnant from the forces of the Antichrist. The battle will then move north to Jerusalem. Here the forces of the Antichrist will be destroyed. This is described in Revelation 14:19-20.

Revelation 14:19-20 (ESV)

¹⁹ *So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰ And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse’s bridle, for 1,600 stadia.*

To summarize, in the final days of the Tribulation, the armies of the Antichrist will gather at Armageddon for a campaign against the Jews. First, they will attack and conquer Jerusalem. Second, they will march on the city of refuge. It is there that Jesus will come from heaven with His armies. He will drive the forces of the Antichrist back in the direction from which they came. At Jerusalem He will destroy the Antichrist, the False Prophet and their army.

Revelation 19:11-21 reveals the second coming of Christ in summary form. Verses 11-16 describe Jesus and His armies. Verses 17-21 reveal His victory over the Antichrist.

JESUS AND HIS ARMIES (19:11-16)**Revelation 19:11-16 (ESV)**

¹¹ *Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse!*

The white horse symbolizes conquest; white horses were ridden by kings and generals.

The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.

These descriptions emphasize the authority and integrity of Jesus to judge and make war upon His enemies. The “name written that no one knows but himself” emphasizes Jesus’ unique relationship with God the Father.

¹³ *He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.*

The blood splattered on His robe is the blood of His enemies as we saw in Isaiah 63.

¹⁴ *And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.*

The armies of heaven are plural indicating more than one army. One army will be an angelic army. Matthew 16:27 states:

Matthew 16:27 (ESV)

²⁷ *For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.*

The other army that will accompany Jesus is the army of Church saints who at this point have been wed to Christ (Rev. 19:6-8). Though these two armies will accompany Jesus, Isaiah 63 makes clear that neither army participates in the fighting. Jesus will fight and win this battle by Himself.

¹⁵ *From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.*

Revelation 19:17-21 describes Jesus’ victory over His enemies.

JESUS’ VICTORY OVER THE ANTICHRIST AND FALSE PROPHET (19:17-21)

Revelation 19:17–21 (ESV)

¹⁷ *Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, “Come, gather for the great supper of God, ¹⁸ to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.”*

This gruesome angelic announcement emphasizes the carnage of the Armageddon campaign.

¹⁹ *And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. ²⁰ And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. ²¹ And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.*

Verse 21 further supports the fact that Jesus will fight and conquer the Antichrist and False Prophet by Himself. The victory will be His and His alone. And with His victory the 7 year Tribulation will come to an end.

One member of the counterfeit trinity will remain. Chapter 20 reveals how God will deal with Satan.