

## 41. The Defeat of the Beast and the False Prophet

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain the purpose of the marriage supper of the Lamb. In this topic, we will see the return of Christ to the earth and the actual judgment of the beast and the false prophet as well as those who follow him.

We read about the second coming of Christ as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, when Revelation 19:11-16 says, “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.” Here, we see that, at His second coming, Christ will come as conquering King to take His rightful rule.

The first time Christ presented Himself as King, He rode on the colt of a donkey. In His second coming, we see that He will come riding on a white horse. A white horse was the animal of a conquering king or general at the time the New Testament was written. In these verses, we see that Christ is called Faithful and True. 2 Thessalonians 3:3 says, “But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard *you* from the evil one.” This verse tells us that Christ is faithful in guarding His followers from the evil one. 1 John 5:20 says, “And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.” This verse says that the followers of Christ are in Him. Because Christ is both Faithful and True, He is the One who is able to judge in righteousness and make war on all unbelievers.

This judgment will be a righteous judgment. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9 says, “Since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.” Here, we see that when Christ and His armies are revealed from heaven, they will bring judgment. This judgment will be the immediate judgment that will happen at the time Christ comes. This judgment will also include the final judgment when all those who have rejected Christ, throughout the history of the world, will receive everlasting destruction, and be separated from God for eternity.

There are three times in Revelation where we see that the eyes of Christ are like a flame of fire. The other two verses which tell us that are Revelation 1:14 and 2:18. We saw, in those verses, that Christ is able to examine the thoughts of the hearts. Christ defeated Satan at the cross, when

He shed His blood, so we see that His robe is dipped in blood. Christ is also called the Word of God several times by John. This shows the fact that Christ fully reveals the Father. Christ will be followed by the armies of heaven. However, the armies will not need to fight against the world. Instead, we see that a sharp sword that goes out of the mouth of Christ that will defeat the nations. Christ only has to speak the word to defeat the nations. His judgment will be swift and complete. Revelation 14:19-20 says, “So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw *it* into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.” Here, we see that the Valley of Armageddon will be the winepress of the wrath of God where Christ will carry out this judgment of the nations. Then, He will rule as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 19:17-18 says, “Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, ‘Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, free and slave, both small and great.’” Since the blood will be up to the bridle of a horse, in a valley that is one hundred and sixty miles long, there will be many bodies lying everywhere in that valley. In these verses, we see that the Lord will send an angel of heaven to gather the birds of prey (birds like hawks, eagles, vultures, buzzards, and all of the other birds of heaven) to eat the bodies that are scattered throughout this valley.

These verses tell us that the angel will invite all of these birds to the supper of the great God. Matthew 24:27-28 tell us that the angel will gather these birds so they are ready before Christ even returns. Those verses say, “For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.” We are reminded that the coming of Christ will be very sudden. That is why the angel will gather these birds in advance. We see that these birds are gathered for the supper of the great God.

This will fulfill the prophecy of Ezekiel 39:17-20, which says: “And as for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Speak to every sort of bird and to every beast of the field: Assemble yourselves and come; gather together from all sides to My sacrificial meal which I am sacrificing for you, a great sacrificial meal on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood. You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams and lambs, of goats and bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan. You shall eat fat till you are full, and drink blood till you are drunk, at My sacrificial meal which I am sacrificing for you. You shall be filled at My table with horses and riders, with mighty men and with all the men of war,’” says the Lord GOD.” The birds of prey will have a great meal as they devour “the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, free and slave, both small and great.”

Revelation 19:19-21 says, “And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was

captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.” In these verses, we see that Christ will defeat the beast, the false prophet and all who follow them.

The armies of the world will gather to completely destroy all that remain of the people of Israel. Instead, at that very moment, Christ will return to judge the antichrist and his false prophet, as well as the kings and people of the earth, as we have seen in the previous topic. We see that the beast, (antichrist) and the false prophet who worked signs in the presence of the beast, will be captured rather than killed. It is through the signs this false prophet will perform that the people of the earth will be deceived to take the mark of the beast and worship his image. Revelation 13:12-17 says, “And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted *power* to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”

We see that the beast and the false prophet will be cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. During the thousand years Christ rules, Revelation 20:2 says, “He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.” Then, Revelation 20:7-8a says, “Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth...” Satan, and all who follow him, will be defeated. Revelation 20:10 says, “The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” Meanwhile, all of the rest of the people will be killed when Christ speaks the word. Then, the birds the angel gathered will be filled with the flesh of the dead bodies. This judgment will be their physical judgment. Their eternal judgment will come after the thousand-year rule of Christ.

We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain what will happen to the beast and the false prophet, as well as their followers, when Christ returns as the judge of all unbelievers before He begins His rule on earth for a thousand years. May the Lord richly bless you as you equip your children to explain these things.