

The Second Coming of Christ

Revelation 19:11-16

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

December 11, 2022

Introduction

- Personal experience of God taking me “down to the wire” before intervening and delivering.
- Peter’s experience of God intervening at the last minute
 - Acts 12:1-5 -- *“Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover. Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.”*
 - Acts 12:6-11-- *“And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, “Arise quickly!” And his chains fell off his hands. Then the angel said to him, “Gird yourself and tie on your sandals”; and so he did. And he said to him, “Put on your garment and follow me.” So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. And when Peter had come to himself, he said, “Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people.”*
- Review of the Campaign of Armageddon and the successes of the Antichrist.
 - Zechariah 14:2-- *“The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.”*
- God uses Israel’s defeat to prepare the Jewish people for the coming of their Messiah.
 - Isaiah 64:1-2-- *“Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence— as fire burns brushwood, As fire causes water to boil— To make Your name known to Your adversaries, that the nations may tremble at Your presence!”*
- In response to their cries, **“the LORD will go forth and fight”**
 - Zechariah 14:3-- *“Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle.”*
- The identification of “LORD”-- Jehovah, the “I AM” and Jesus.
 - John 8:58-- *“Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”*

The Second Coming of Christ

- Revelation 19:11-16-- *“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.”*

A. General Comments regarding Christ’s Second Coming

1. **The Second Coming is the culmination of redemptive history**, for it will usher in the Kingdom age, and ultimately the eternal age. It is the answer to our prayers.
 - Matthew 6:10-- *“Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”*

2. **The Second Coming is to be distinguished from the Rapture of the Church.**

- John 14:1-3-- *"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."*
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17-- *"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."*
- 1 Corinthians 15:51-53-- *"Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."*

- a. At the Rapture, Jesus comes "in the clouds", whereas at the Second Coming, He will set His feet on the Mount of Olives.
- b. At the Rapture, Jesus comes "for" His saints; whereas at His Second Coming, He comes "with" His saints.
- c. At the Rapture, believers will be translated, their bodies changed; whereas at His Second Coming, no translation needed.
- d. At the Rapture, Jesus comes to deliver His followers from judgment; whereas at His Second Coming He comes to bring judgment to the world.
- e. At the Rapture, no signs in the heavens or earth; whereas at His Second Coming great signs in the heavens and on earth
 - Matthew 24:29-30-- *"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."*

3. The Second Coming and the Rapture of the Church do not happen at the same time, as part of the same event. This is the position of those who believe in a **post-tribulation rapture**.

- a. Position stated: Jesus Christ comes to rapture living believers and raise dead ones at the end of the tribulation period. We meet the Lord in the air, and then immediately return to earth with Him at His Second Coming.
- b. Position evaluated:
 - 1) No purpose or accomplishment in rapturing believers only to immediately return to earth!
 - 2) God has promised that we are not destined to experience wrath but to obtain salvation and that He would deliver us from the very "hour" of trial coming on the earth.
 - 3) The best way to keep us from experiencing His wrath in the tribulation period is to remove us prior to the beginning of the trib.

B. **Specific Comments regarding Christ's Second Coming**

1. **Jesus Christ returns as the CONQUERING, WARRIOR-KING!**

- Revelation 19:1-3-- *"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."*
- a. John sees "**heaven open**"
 - 1) Revelation 4:1 the heavens open to let John in; here it opens to let Jesus out!
 - 2) John had earlier been privy to the scene in heaven where the title deed for the earth is given to the Lamb.

- Revelation 5:1-7-- *“And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.” And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.”*
- 3) The Lamb has now become the Conquering King!
- b. Jesus comes riding on a *“white horse”*
- 1) The first time He offered Himself as their King, He came riding on the back of a donkey.
 - Zechariah 9:9-- *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.”*
 - 2) Riding on a *“white horse”* indicates that Jesus will be victorious over the forces of wickedness
 - 3) Jesus is not the first rider on a *“white horse”* that John saw.
 - Revelation 6:1-2-- *“the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.” And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.”*
- c. That rider on the second white horse is not the Antichrist, but the Real Christ is confirmed by the description that follows:
- 1) *“Called Faithful and True”*-- Revelation 3:14
 - 2) *“In righteousness He judges”*
 - John 5:22-- *“For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son.”*
 - Acts 17:31-- *“He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”*
 - 3) He comes to *“make war”*
 - a) When Jesus came the first time, He was the *“prince of peace”* who suffered without retaliation
 - 1 Peter 2:23-- *“when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously.”*
 - b) When He comes the second time He comes as a *“man of war”* against unbelieving sinners.
 - (1) This is not out of character for Jesus Christ.
 - Exodus 15:1-5-- *“I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father’s God, and I will exalt Him. The LORD is a man of war; The LORD is His name. Pharaoh’s chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea. The depths have covered them; They sank to the bottom like a stone.”*
 - (2) God indeed is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish. But there is a limit to His patience.
 - 4) *“His eyes were like flames of fire”*
 - Hebrews 4:13-- *“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”*
 - 5) *“On His head were many crowns”*-- *“diadems”* or kingly crowns collected from vanquished kings
 - 6) Has a *“name written that no one knew except Himself”*-- no comment!

- 7) ***“He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood”*** Question: *Whose blood?*
- a) The blood on His robe is the results of the warfare in which He will be engaged. For He is the One who *“treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”*
 - Isaiah 63:1-4-- *“Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength? — “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.” Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? “I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come.”*
 - b) The blood on His garment is His own blood
 - (1) The warfare is still future when He returns. The battle hasn’t happened yet.
 - (2) Whenever blood is mention in connection with Christ in Revelation, it is always His blood.
 - Revelation 1:5-- *“To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.”*
 - (3) The imagery of “dipped” does not fit the splattered imagery of Isaiah 63, but does fit the imagery of Revelation 7:14 where the martyred tribulation saints have *“washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”*
- 8) ***“His name is called the Word of God”***
- John 1:1-- *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*
 - John 1:14-- *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*
 - Hebrews 1:3-- *“brightness of His glory and the express image of His person.”*

2. **Jesus Christ, the Warrior-King returns with the “armies of heaven”**

- Revelation 19:14-- *“And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.”*
- a. **Army of the Angelic Hosts**
 - Matthew 16:27-- *“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”*
 - Matthew 24:30-31-- *“Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”*
 - b. **Army of the Redeemed**
 - 1) ***“Clothed in fine linen, white and clean”*** and riding on ***“white horses”*** is not true of angels but true of the Redeemed.
 - 2) The clothing of ***“fine linen, white and clean”*** describes the attire of the bride of Christ.
 - Revelation 19:8-- *“And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”*
 - 3) The Army of the Redeemed may also include along with us the martyred, resurrected Tribulation saints.
 - Revelation 17:14-- *“These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”*
 - Jude 14-15-- *“Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”*
 - 4) We come NOT to fight, but to celebrate Christ’s victory and ultimately to reign with Him in His kingdom!