

## Behold | Sermons through the Revelation

Sermon #40 | Revelation 19:17-21 | The Crisis Beyond the Second Coming

### Revelation 19:17-19 | The Response to the Second Coming

- Upon the Second Coming, the nations, gathered at Armageddon (Rev. 16:14-16), find their sudden defeat.
- The defeat has been long anticipated by the prophets:
  - Joel 3:13-14
  - Zechariah 14:1-9
  - Matthew 24:29-30
- Now all the birds of the air are invited to **the supper of the great God** (v. 17). There is about to be a great feast...for vultures. Compare Matthew 24:27-28.
- Upon the Lord's return, the **beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies** (v. 19) set out against the Lord (i.e.: **him that sat on the horse**) as well as **against his army** (v. 19).
  - Last week we mentioned the army that returns with the Lord (v. 14), and stated that it was *not likely* the church, as is commonly taught.
  - Matthew 16:27 speaks of Christ returning **with his angels**. It is likely that the army (v. 19, as well as 14) is an *angelic army*. Compare also Luke 2:13.
  - See Isaiah 37:33-37 for a picture of the Lord and His angelic army at work.

### Revelation 19:20-21 | The Defeat of the Antichrist

- In only one verse the book of Revelation describes the last day of the Antichrist (i.e.: **the beast** (v. 20)).
- Along with the **false prophet**, the two are **thrown into a lake of fire burning with brimstone** (v. 20).
  - This is the first of four references in the Bible to the lake of fire.
  - Hell has been referenced by many designations (including the English word hell, which, at the time of its creation meant *the dwelling place of the dead*).
  - At this point, we understand the tortuous nature of hell better than at any other point of Scripture.
  - In Revelation 20:14 we will learn that **death and hell** will join the beast, the false prophet, and (by that time) Satan himself in the lake of fire.

- People who die without Christ are in "hell" now, but they are not in the lake of fire. That is their ultimate destination. They are currently in a conscious torment.
- The **remnant were slain** (v. 21) and the **fowls were filled with their flesh** (v. 21).
  - From Revelation 20:14 we will learn that they too will end up in the lake of fire.
- If this **remnant were them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image** (v. 20), then we can conclude that-
  - Nobody with the mark of the beast will enter heaven, and
  - The Kingdom of God (millennium) begins only with "overcomers" who endured the tribulation without succumbing to the delusion of the Beast.
  - Note that some teach that repentance is possible after receiving the mark of the beast.
    - For example, Phil Johnson of Grace to You, "Revelation 19:20 indicates that multitudes will take the mark of the Beast because they are deceived. Scripture does not say that they are thereby automatically hardened forever against repentance." (<https://www.gty.org/blog/B131030>).
    - This "potential forgiveness" position assumes that:
      - The Age of Grace is continuing during this future time, and
      - The delusion can be overcome once accepted.

### Both Hell and the Preceding Tribulation Can be Avoided!

- The scenario in these verses is (and ought to be) very frightening.
- Gratefully, every one of us can know that *this particular scene* is one that is totally *avoidable*.
- However, though *avoidable* it is also *predictable*.
  - From the beginning, Adam rebelled against God and chose the deception of Satan.
  - This rebellion had consequences: the death of Adam and all his descendants.
- As soon as Adam rebelled, God gave hope of a Savior – Genesis 3:15.
- That Savior is God's Son Himself, who dwelt among us as Jesus of Nazareth – John 1:14.
- When Jesus died and rose again, He became "Lord of the dead and of the living" – Romans 14:9
- As Lord, He is able to make any offers He chooses. He has chosen to make an offer of salvation by grace through faith – Ephesians 2:8-9