

UNDERSTANDING THE GREAT TRIBULATION

GET READY TO RUMBLE

Imagine yourself at a heavyweight boxing match... Loud music blares through the PA... The challenger - then the champ - climbs into the ring. The crowd gets worked up into a frenzy. A deep-throated announcer screams, "Get ready to rumble!" This is the mood when we come to Revelation 6.

Chapter 5 introduces God's champ - and He happens to be a *little Lamb*. But this little Lamb roars like a lion! He packs a powerful punch! He carries an awful big wallop! The hammer of God's judgment is about to fall on the rebel planet...

OPENING THE SEALS

In chapter 5, Jesus was seen as the one person worthy, and able, to redeem the title deed to planet earth. He took the scroll, and popped the seven seals. But remember, purchasing property and taking possession of that property are two different tasks - especially if the occupant of a parcel refuses to leave.

This is the predicament Jesus faces. After buying back planet Earth on the cross, He now has to evict the old tenants. As Jesus pops the seals, He releases catastrophic judgments on a stubborn Satan and on a Christ-rejecting humanity.

Chapters 6-19 describe the rumble that ensues. Jesus tosses the squatters - and carnage and ruin result. The Bible calls this period of history, "*Great Tribulation*". And don't think of these events as distant happenings... I believe chapters 6-19 chronicle the near future. John is providing previews of coming attractions...

It's interesting that never in the history of Christianity has the Church grown numerically at the pace it is today. Worldwide, 80,000 new believers are added to the Church daily. In Asia and Africa 1000 new churches are planted weekly. The only place where Christianity is not growing by leaps and bounds is the US.

But the largest and most sweeping spiritual awakening is yet to take place. It's still future, and ironically, won't occur until the Church is airlifted off the Earth. In Matthew 24:14 Jesus said, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." Jesus predicted a final worldwide burst of evangelistic activity prior to His return.

This is what happens after the rapture. God will send out 144,000 Jewish evangelists, 2 key witnesses, and 3 angels who buzz the world warning of the coming judgments.

Chapter 7 describes how 12,000 Jews from

SEALS, TRUMPETS, BOWLS

Revelation 6-19 records events leading up to the 2nd coming of Jesus. Here's the biblical scenario... First, the Church is raptured - next, the antichrist signs a covenant with Israel - that begins 7 years of "*Great Tribulation*" where the Earth is bombarded with God's judgment. At the end of those 7 years Jesus returns and establishes His kingdom.

Chapters 6-19 tell us the judgments that strike the Earth come in 3 waves - 3 sets of 7 judgments each - *as broken seals, as trumpet blasts, as poured-out bowls*.

As Jesus breaks the seals - and takes possession of what belongs to Him - judgment reigns down. Trumpets sound a warning that God means business. Sin will be punished. Bowls brimming with God's wrath are thrown down from heaven!

BREAKS IN THE ACTION

Interspersed between the seals, trumpets, and bowls are several vignettes - or parenthetical passages - that focus on personalities, or other details relating to the Great Tribulation.

In Revelation 7 we come to the first of these vignettes... an unprecedented spiritual awakening will take place during the Great Tribulation.

Chapters 10-14 interrupt the trumpet judgments, and give us descriptions of the cast of characters - both the good guys and bad guys in the Great Tribulation.

And Revelation 17-18 give us a play-by-play on the fall of Babylon.

A GREAT AWAKENING

each of the 12 tribes convert to Christianity, and become mighty missionaries. Imagine, 144,000 Jewish Billy Grahams on the loose. These witnesses are sealed and protected by God.

And as a result of their ministry, in 7:9, John sees a multitude of Gentiles standing in the righteousness of Christ, and thanking God for salvation. John doesn't recognize this group of people so they can't be the Church. Verse 14 identifies them as the folks who were saved during the Great Tribulation.

These saints will be forced to endure some tough times. Hunger and thirst and persecution will be a part of their discipleship. *Yet in the end the Lamb will be their Shepherd!*

Those saved *during the Tribulation* spend 7 years in pain and persecution. Those saved *before the Tribulation* spend 7 years enjoying peace and pleasure. Why be a glutton for punishment? Why not turn to Jesus today?

Bible Scan - Revelation 6-19

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BONUS PAGES IN THIS ISSUE

SEVEN SEALS

THE FIRST SEAL

In verse 2 the first seal breaks, and John sees, “a white horse. And he who sat on it had a bow...” Don’t mistake this rider for Jesus. Satan makes his counterfeit as close to the original as possible. In chapter 19 we’ll see Jesus riding a white horse, but in the beginning of the tribulation the equestrian is the Antichrist.

Notice Satan’s strongman carries a bow, but no arrows. He takes over without firing a shot. He conquers the world with deception, diplomacy, and intimidation.

THE SECOND SEAL

The second seal unleashes a red horse - or the horse of war. The Antichrist comes to power through political manipulation, but once in power he uses a “great sword”. He uses force and violence to enforce his will.

THE THIRD AND FOURTH SEALS

The third seal releases a black horse which brings famine - the fourth seal, a pale horse which brings disease and death. Through these four horsemen a quarter of the world’s population perish. It’s a destruction unparalleled in human history.

Today a little under 6 billion people inhabit the Earth. A death toll of 25% adds up to 1½ billion people - that’s 5 times the population of the US. If you counted one number per second it’d take 11 days to reach a million. That seems like a long time, but it’d take you 48 years to count to 1½ billion. Imagine, 1.5 billion corpses lying dead on planet Earth. And that’s just the beginning...

THE FIFTH SEAL

The fifth seal reveals the souls of the martyrs crying out for God’s vengeance on their persecutors. It’s interesting that even in the midst of judgment, people come to Christ. But in that day, faith proves costly. Martyrdom awaits the tribulation saints. The Antichrist orchestrates another Holocaust to torture those who become Christians.

This is why it’s so naïve to think you can wait until after the rapture to get saved! If you can’t live for Jesus now, what makes you think you can die for Him then?

THE SIXTH SEAL

When the sixth seal is broken, cataclysmic upheavals shake the world off its foundations. The earth wobbles under the wrath of the Lamb.

Verse 12 speaks of “a great earthquake” - verse 13 says, “the stars of heaven fell to the earth” - verse 14 tells us, “And the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled together, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.” Cataclysms of unprecedented proportion attack the Earth and its earthlings.

It’s interesting that the word translated “stars” in verse 13 refers to any celestial body other than our sun and moon - which could include a planet, an asteroid, a meteorite, or a comet. A quick survey of the earth’s surface, and the numerous craters that cover it, reveal that meteorites have struck our planet in the past...

And many astronomers believe they’ll do it again.

In a November 23, 1992 Newsweek cover story, “Doomsday Science”, Daniel Yeomans of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory made this statement, “Space is filled with objects that threaten Earth... Earth runs its course about the sun in a swarm of asteroids. Sooner or later, our planet will be struck by one of them.”

On Kitt Peak, near Tucson, there’s an observatory that charts the paths of asteroids that threaten to collide with planet Earth. Astronomers have identified thousands of asteroids, larger than a half mile wide, with orbits that could cross our path. Each of these cosmic projectiles poses a threat to our way of life.

THE SEVENTH SEAL

The seventh seal is reserved for chapter 8, and becomes the prelude to the seven trumpets.

Devotion Box - The Wrath Of The Lamb

When the sixth seal is broken the world runs for cover. 6:15 describes it, “The kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men... hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks... and said... Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!” But what a fascinating phrase, “the wrath of the Lamb”... The Lamb gets angry at sin.

Jesus deals with sin in one of two ways - He either pardons it or punishes it - take your pick... but He never ignores it. The Lamb gets angry at sin, and will one day vent His wrath on the rebellious.

A TEMPLE TO MEASURE

Revelation 11 assumes the Jewish temple will be rebuilt in the last days. That’s why it’s exciting to realize that preparations for its construction are underway today.

When we go to Jerusalem, we visit the Temple Institute where implements for the third temple have already been built and are on display. The Jews are determined to rebuild their temple. It’s not a matter of *if*, but *when*...

In 11:1-2 John is told to measure the Temple’s dimensions - but “leave out the outer court for it has been given to

the Gentiles.”

The latest archeological research suggests the Jewish temple sat north of the mosque that now occupies the Mount.

It’s possible that the Jews will not have to remove the Muslim mosque to rebuild their temple as most people assume. If they build the new temple north of the mosque they can give the outer court to the gentiles... just as John was told.

SEVEN TRUMPETS

In Revelation 8 Jesus opens the 7th seal! A half hour of silence in heaven – a hush before the crush - is broken by the shrill blasts of 7 trumpet judgments.

Verse 4 indicates the trumpets are the result of the prayers of the saints. God hears us when we cry for justice on earth, and one day He'll answer those cries.

TRUMPETS ONE THROUGH FOUR

With the first trumpet a third of the earth is torched. With the second trumpet a third of the ocean is poisoned. With the third trumpet a third of the fresh water supply gets contaminated. With the fourth trumpet the earth's exposure to the sun is reduced by a third.

The earth is ravaged. What on earth has happened to the Earth? Is John describing a nuclear debacle... or a natural disaster... or both?

Notice verse 8, "something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea". There is a National Geographic special, "Asteroids: Deadly Impact", that explores the possibility of a cosmic projectile impacting the earth. As I watched, I was amazed that the script-writer sounded like John when he referred to earth-crossing asteroids as "mountains tumbling through space".

On March 22, 1989 an asteroid came within 6 hours of striking the Earth. On May 14, 1996 another asteroid missed us by a mere 280,000 miles – which astronomically speaking was a near-miss. The moon is about 240,000 miles away. *It's as if God is firing warning shots across our bow to encourage us to repent.*

It's interesting- a comet's tail is composed of hydrogen and carbon, thus as it enters the Earth's atmosphere it ignites with oxygen and catches on fire. It would look like John's description, "a great mountain burning with fire..."

On impact it would torch the earth and taint the waters red like blood. It might even tilt the Earth's axis further from the sun – diminishing our solar exposure. Hey, it would all occur just as Revelation 8 describes...

Another consideration is brought up in verse 11... John writes, "a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch... and the name of the star is Wormwood..."

If you read a Ukrainian version of the Bible the word translated "Wormwood" or "bitterness" is "Chernobyl" –

the site of the world's worse nuclear disaster. Nuclear detonations could also be involved in some of these trumpet judgments. Whatever the cause - the effects are devastating. The earth becomes a tottering inferno.

In chapter 4 angels in heaven sing, "Holy, holy, holy" – but in 8:13 an angel on earth flies through the sky shouting "Woe, woe, woe" - 3 more trumpets are about to sound. God is saying to the wicked, "*You ain't seen nothing yet!*"

THE FIFTH TRUMPET

In 9:1 another "star" falls from heaven, but this star is not an object- it's a person. Earlier in 1:20 we're told that "stars" are also symbolic of angels. This fallen star – with "the key to the bottomless pit" – is none other than Satan.

With the fifth trumpet Satan unleashes a Pandora's Box of evil. Hellish locusts appear - and John indicates they're not normal locusts. The insect feeds on vegetation. These locusts lay off the greens and feed on men.

These are demons, formerly chained in hell, but now let loose on earth. It's possible they are the demons that raped and pillaged before the flood. They've spent 3 millenniums in hell's maximum security, and are itching to wreak havoc. They sting like scorpions and appear as hairy locusts. With heads like horses and faces like men they resemble the gargoyles painted by renaissance artists. They even have a king. His name, "Apollyon" means "destroyer".

Verse 6 tells us people want to die to escape these demons - even attempt suicide - but death takes a vacation. People blow their brains out, yet their bodies refuse to die. The only ones protected are the 144,000 Jews for Jesus.

THE SIXTH TRUMPET

The sixth trumpet releases more misery - four demons of death – that are responsible for killing another third of the world's population.

They take control of a vast army – 200 million troops - possibly the army of the East that marches to Armageddon in chapter 16. In verses 17-19 the horses they ride sound amazingly like a 1st century author's description of 20th century military hardware... "out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone."

THE SEVENTH TRUMPET

As with the seals the seventh trumpet in 11:15-19 is a prelude to the seven bowls - God's final round of judgments.

Devotion Box - The Revelation Realization

In 10:1 John sees a mighty angel who straddles the sea and the land, and has "a little book open in his hand". I believe this angel is none other than Jesus. You'll notice the angel's appearance is similar to John's vision of Jesus in chapter 1. The scroll is possibly the title deed of the earth seen in chapter 5.

Jesus owns the earth. He has the papers to prove it. The deed is open and the seals snapped. The judgments of God have been executed and the conflict with Satan is about to reach a climax. The Kingdom of God has almost come.

That's when John is told to eat the scroll. As he first chews on the implications of Messiah's takeover, it excites him. Sin is defeated and Christ is on the throne. The thought of God's

long-awaited judgment leaves a sweet taste in his mouth. But as he digests the implications, he's reminded of the plight of those lost without Christ. To think of the souls that will burn in hell gives John a touch of heartburn. The taste that begins as sweet, ends up becoming bitter.

I call this the Revelation realization – and it happens to us.

When you discover Bible prophecy and realize Jesus is coming soon you get excited... *but then it hits.* Judgment is coming on people I love. The sweetness turns to heartburn – our hearts burn to share with those who don't know Jesus.

The truth of God's judgment is sweet in the mouth, but bitter in the belly. We're excited to see the Lord, but we should grieve over the fact we won't see our loved ones in eternity.

If you have questions on tonight's study email Pastor Sandy - sandyadams@calvarychapel.org
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“For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”
- Revelation 6:17

Bible Scan
Memory
Verse

THE BATTLE OF THE AGES

In Revelation 12:1 the woman is Israel – in verse 3, the dragon is Satan – in verse 4, the stars are angels – in verse 5, the male child, birthed by the woman, or Israel, is none other than Jesus Christ. Notice the “male Child” will “rule all nations with a rod of iron. And... was caught up to God and to His throne.” That’s Jesus! These are the players in chapter 12...

And for the rest of the chapter, John plays the role of a war correspondent as he reports on the final throes in an age-old battle between God and Satan...

It’s interesting, humans are pregnant for 9 months, rhinos for 15 months, elephants for a whopping 21 months (*Ladies, be glad you’re not an elephant*)...

But Israel was pregnant with the promise of the Messiah for 4000 years.

The Savior of the world was born through the woman, or Israel. Yet throughout history – from Pharaoh’s attempt on Moses’ life to Herod’s slaughter of the babies of Bethlehem – at every turn, Satan has tried to cut off the lineage

of the Messiah. Of course, his attempts have always fallen short. Jesus was born and salvation completed. But I believe Satan still has a special hatred for the Jews...

According to 12:7, midway through the Tribulation, war erupts in heaven. Two heavyweights go at it! Michael, the archangel, and his allies slug it out with Satan and his demons. The battle makes Star Wars look like a dart throw. In the end Satan gets bounced from heaven... And he realizes the end of his reign of terror is at hand... As John says in 12:12, “he knows he has a short time.” *So what does he do?* Is it any surprise he turns immediately to attack the woman?

Israel has fled to the wilderness where God has provided for her and protected her for 3½ years. Isaiah 16 identifies the Jews’ wilderness hideout as the rock city of Petra. Near the end of the Great Tribulation, the Antichrist sends his army, *like a flood*, to annihilate the Jews. That’s when an earthquake intercepts his genocide squad, and Israel is saved. Satan gets defeated in heaven and routed on earth.

THE BEASTIE BOYS

Double trouble appears in Revelation 13. The Great Tribulation features a deadly, demonic duo with occult powers. Satan empowers the beastie boys...

The first beast John sees is the Antichrist – he’s a political leader who rules the world. His 10 horns represent a 10 nation confederacy that catapults him to power.

Verse 3 mentions that he recovers from a deadly head wound. People see it as a miracle, and it propels him to superstar status. The whole world worships him.

Several years ago, an organizer for the European Community, Henry Speck, made a comment that reflected the mood all across Europe. He said, “We don’t want another committee. We want a man of stature to hold the allegiance of the people... Send us a man whether he be God or a devil, send him.” The world today is primed for a leader who has answers to our modern complexities.

The beast is a man whose heart belongs to Satan, and his successes go to his head. Verse 5, says his big mouth is full of blasphemy. Verse 6, he’ll rule for 42 months or 3½ years. And verse 7, he makes war with and overcomes the Saints.

God will get revenge! But verse 10 says the saints need faith and patience.

The second beast in Revelation 13 is the False Prophet – a religious leader who gives ecclesiastical sanction and support to the ambitions of the Antichrist. The first beast is a political leader. The second beast is a religious leader.

The false prophet leads an apostate church, and appears to be a man of God. He constructs an image and blackmails the world into worshipping this image.

The beastie boys concoct a fiendish scheme. A one-world government creates a one-world economy. A universal number or code is required to do business. But to get the mark you have to worship the beast – and the infamous number is 666.

In the Great Tribulation people will sell their soul to buy a loaf of bread. Today, bar codes and scanners are setting the stage for the Scriptural scenario...

If you miss the rapture – and they try to tattoo a mark, or implant a chip, in your right hand or forehead... by all means, *just say no... even if it costs you your life.*

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SEVEN BOWLS

Revelation 15 introduces the final 7 plagues. The 7 bowls are brimming with divine wrath – these are the most intense of God's judgments.

John sees the temple in heaven filled with smoke, while the earth is about to get smoked.

In Revelation 16 these seven bowls of divine displeasure are emptied on the earth. Understand- these are not “*bowl games*.” God is serious about judging sin...

THE FIRST BOWL

The first plague is a saucer full of infection and inflammation. People on earth worship the beast with one hand and itch their running sores with their other.

It's possible the “foul and loathsome sore” is the result of exposure to nuclear fallout. John Hersey, in his book *Hiroshima*, describes the victims, “Faces were wholly burned, eye sockets were hollow, fluid from melted eyes ran down cheeks, mouths were swollen, pus-covered wounds.” This is what the first bowl brings.

THE SECOND AND THIRD BOWLS

The second bowl pollutes the ocean. The third bowl contaminates the drinking water. Jesus has to return soon after the third bowl, or mankind cannot survive.

THE FOURTH BOWL

Ozone depletion is a problem today. In the Great Tribulation it will become a deadly plague. The fourth bowl empowers the sun to singe the earth's sinners.

THE FIFTH BOWL

After the fifth bowl is spilled, the wicked sit in darkness bleeding and blistered. You'd think by now the misery would hammer home the message to repent, but rather than cry out for mercy, the wicked shout blasphemies at God. The world is so deceived that men believe God to be their enemy and Satan their savior.

THE SIXTH BOWL

When the sixth bowl is poured out the Euphrates River dries up - what was once a waterway is turned into a highway. The army of the East comes out of the Orient, and its troops march to Megiddo through the dried-up riverbed.

In verse 13 frog-like demons draw the armies of the world to the mountain of Megiddo. The final battle is about to be staged. The wicked are about to croak!

THE SEVENTH BOWL

The seventh bowl ravages the earth. Verse 18 mentions an unprecedented earthquake. Mountains are leveled. Islands are erased. In verse 21 the wicked world gets pelted with 100 pound hailstones. Recall in the Old Testament, the penalty for blasphemy was stoning... In the end, God judges the blasphemers.

They say in a nuclear blast moisture gets compressed - then shot into the upper layers of the stratosphere where temperatures are 60 degrees below zero. Frozen condensation falls back to earth as chunks of ice that weigh as much as 200 pounds. These hailstones could also be produced by a nuclear explosion.

THE MAE WEST OF THE BIBLE

Mae West was one of Hollywood's naughty girls.

It was said “she climbed the ladder of success - wrong by wrong.” Here're a few quotes from Mae: “I use to be Snow White... but I drifted.” “Marriage is a great institution, but I'm not ready for an institution yet.” “I only like two kinds of men - domestic and foreign.” And finally, “I've been in more laps than a napkin.” Mae West was a woman who became a *star* by being a *slut*.

Well, in Revelation 17 we find the Mae West of the Bible - a biblical bad girl - a spiritual slut - a decadent, immoral, unfaithful woman. In verse 5 she receives the very unflattering name, “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH”.

“*The whore of Babylon*” is the false religious system the Antichrist uses to gain ecclesiastical sanction for his rise to power. In the Great Tribulation this naughty girl will be the spiritual system that deceives the world into worshipping Satan. In the words of Mae West, the whore

of Babylon will say to the world, “Come up and see me sometime.” And sadly, the world will accept her invitation.

The harlot of Babylon will include the institutional church once the true church has been raptured. It'll incorporate the occult, astrology, humanism, paganism - as well as, all the world religions - into one eclectic doctrine - a universal religion.

Its only creed is, “Believe in anything but Jesus”. It's tolerant of all ideas, but true, biblical Christianity... The popularity of this religion is already on the rise.

This Babylonian belief system has been around since Nimrod. When the Persians conquered Babylon its priests fled to Asia - and later to Rome. The Roman Catholic church has incorporated many of its pagan practices.

Sadly, evangelical churches today are also sanctifying sorcery... Positive confession, visualization... any attempt to manipulate reality through psychic gymnastics is forbidden by God. It's called the New Age - but it's an old lie.

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WHY A HARLOT CAN'T TRUST A BEAST

In 17:8 John sees a beast “that was, and is not, and yet is” - this is the revived Roman empire. She rises in the last days in the form of a 10 nation confederacy headquartered in the capitol of Rome. Verse 9 further identifies this beast with “seven mountains” - Rome is known to this day “as the city on seven hills.”

It's interesting, that today, for the first time since 400 AD the old Roman empire has once again come together. It's reassembled in the form of a united Europe.

I'll never forget a December 1991 Time Magazine cover story on the European Community that contained a symbol

of Europe... *a woman riding on a beast*. It was as if the editors lifted their imagery right out of Revelation 17.

In 17:7 John implies the harlot will come to power on the back of a revived Rome. But here's the lesson she learns - go to bed with the devil and you'll never wake up.

That's what happens to the harlot. The political leader, the Antichrist, uses this false religion to come to power, but afterwards he turns on the harlot.

Verse 16 says she becomes “desolate and naked”. The Antichrist requires the world to worship him. In the end he becomes jealous of any type of religion.

COMMERCIAL BABYLON

There are actually two Babylons that appear in Revelation... In chapter 17 the religious system which helps give rise to the Antichrist is called Babylon. In chapter 18 the world's commercial center, which is under his control, goes by the same name. Verse 3 tells us the Antichrist will secure the world's allegiance by making his subjects rich. In the end, the world sells out principle for profit. People compromise spiritually to gain financially.

Still today, Babylon trades in the souls of men. Madison Avenue is also out for our souls. *Guys, don't be had by the ads*. God, not gold, will satisfy your spirit.

In the end, Babylon goes belly up. In 60 minutes “Babylon the great” bites the dust. God mixes her a double

shot of righteous wrath at the bar of divine justice. 18:17, “In one hour such great riches came to nothing...”

Don't be deceived. Materialism will never satisfy. In the end the world's riches all come to nothing. Babylon goes bust. The world's system ends up bankrupt.

Verse 10 tells us, her mourners “see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment.” This is why some teachers believe that Babylon will get nuked. The observers have to stand at a distance for fear of the fallout. 18:24 tells us Babylon was guilty of the blood of prophets and saints. The Antichrist will manipulate the world's worship by taking control of the buying and selling. For the sake of a dollar Babylon will go along

The Marriage Supper

Chapter 19 ends with a *battle scene*, but it begins with a *bridal suite*. Revelation 6-19 give a description of what happens on earth during the Great Tribulation, while 19:7 describe what happens in heaven at the same time... “for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”

At the *Last Supper* Jesus mentioned this *Marriage Supper*... He toasted His bride - the Church - and told His disciples He would not drink of the vine again until he drank it with them in His kingdom. Now that day has come. Jesus is in heaven with His bride. They're celebrating a union that'll last for all eternity.

When the marriage feast is over a feast of flesh will be served up. The Prince of Peace is no pacifist! In Revelation 19 He and His bride go to war. Here's the climatic conclusion of the galactic battle between God and Satan.

The war winds up for its grand finale in the valley of Megiddo. Antichrist and his allies appear a formidable force, stretched across the floor of the theater - until heaven opens and God's gladiator appears. It's been a long time since this wicked world has seen the Lamb. What a surprise to hear Him roar like a lion. He came the first time to save. He comes the second time to slaughter.

There's no donkey ride this time...verse 11 has Him mounted on a white steed.

He's “Faithful and True”. His eyes are like a flame of fire. On His head sits many crowns. His robe is dipped in blood. “His name is called The Word of God”.

According to verse 15 He comes to strike the nations and rule them with a rod of iron.

He's bringing to earth the “fierceness and wrath of Almighty God”.

Verse 16 climaxes John's description. He says of Jesus, “He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

The battle to end all battles - the Battle of Armageddon - is not such a big deal after all.

In verse 17 an angel calls for the scavengers to feast on the corpses of the Antichrist's army. The flesh of kings and captains becomes food for vultures.

The Antichrist and False Prophet are captured and tossed into the lake of fire.

The war between God and Satan is finally over! Blood has been shed. Lives lost. The Earth is in ruins and in need of restoration, but this is what it took...

Jesus now not only owns the Earth, He has possession. He can restore what sin has damaged. Chapter 19 closes with planet Earth under new management.

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST