

**The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Message #24**  
**Revelation 19:17-21 – The Return of Christ Part #2**  
**(2/14/2010 PM)**

These verses are the culmination of prophetic scripture concerning the Day of Lord. The Tribulation Period will end with the glorious Second Coming of Christ to the earth. There is amazing continuity and unity concerning this event throughout scripture.

1. **The Proclamation of the Angel** (17-18)

***An Angel Again Plays a Key Role***

(17) “Then I saw an angel standing in the sun...”

The angel may well be standing as it were eclipsing the sun. We saw that the Fifth Bowl Judgment filled the Antichrist’s kingdom with darkness (16:10). All of these events will most likely happen in quick succession. We saw that the prophets predicted that the day of the Lord would be a time of darkness.

Zephaniah 1:15, “That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness.”

Joel 2:1-2, “...For the day of the Lord is coming, for it is at hand: a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness...”

Joel 2:30-31, “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.”

Jesus in His Olivet Discourse predicted the same thing in association with His Second Coming.

- **The angel’s message is to the birds of prey**

(17) “...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’...”

Most likely the entire world will see and hear this mighty angel. He is announcing the outcome of the coming battle before it happens. The battle will be brief and millions will die.

Jesus also connected birds of prey to this time.

Matthew 24:27-28, “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.” The word “eagles” can also be translated

“vultures”. The ESV reads “Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.”

The Israeli Air Force for years had a serious problem with birds. Pilots were being killed when birds would smash into their cockpits or get caught in their engines.

They began to do a study of the birds’ migratory habits. They discovered that every spring millions and millions of birds migrate south from Western Europe and Siberia. They fly over the narrow strip of Israel because of their need for food and the thermal air patterns. They discovered that each type of bird fly in the same pattern at the same altitude at the same time of the year.

(18) “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.”

**God Will Supernaturally Call the Carrion Birds to Feast on the Armies of Armageddon**

- **This is the execution of the ungodly not their final judgment**

These verses along with other prophetic scripture reveal the death of all the ungodly all over the world at the coming of Christ.

Isaiah 66:15-16, "For behold, the Lord will come with fire and with His chariots, like a whirlwind, to render His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by His sword the Lord will judge all flesh; and the slain of the Lord shall be many."

### **Their Final Judgment Occurs at the Great White Throne**

## 2. The Gathering of the Armies (19)

### ***The Battle of Armageddon***

(19) "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."

Note that the Antichrist has many "armies" pitted against Christ and "His army".

This is the event described in

(16:12-16) The Sixth Bowl Judgment involved the drying up of the Euphrates River to make way for the Kings of the East to attack Israel. (16:16) "And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon." We saw that "Armageddon" is a Hebrew word which means "Mount Megiddo". There is no specific mountain by that name. It could be understood as the mountains surrounding the plain of Megiddo. The valley is about 14 miles wide and 20 miles long. The entire conflict according to scripture will include the entire 200 mile area from here to Jerusalem.

#### • **This is the event the prophets have predicted**

Psalms 2:1-6, "Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 'Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.' He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: 'Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion'."

Joel 3:2, "I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there."

Joel 3:14-16, "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness. The Lord also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake..."

Zephaniah 3:8, "Therefore wait for Me," says the Lord, "Until the day I rise up for plunder; My determination is to gather the nations to My assembly of kingdoms, to pour on them My indignation, all My fierce anger; all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy."

Zechariah 14:1-4, "Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; 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. Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle.

And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley."

We saw in chapter 16 that Satan will use his demonic hoard to drive the armies of the world to fight against Christ.

### **The Battle Will Be Over As Soon As It Begins**

#### 3. The Destruction of the Ungodly (20-21)

##### ***The Darkness Is Shattered by Glory***

The order of events may be that as soon as the angel makes his announcement the birds gather together and the darkness falls. Then Jesus comes in blazing glory. 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.”

- **The first to fall are the Antichrist and the False Prophet**

(20) “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.”

Christ does not cast them into Hades but directly into “the lake of fire”. This is the place of final torment originally prepared for Satan and the fallen angels. This shows how grievance to God has been their sins.

Daniel 7:11, “I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame.”

At the end of the Millennium, revealed in the next chapter, Satan is cast into the lake of fire “where the beast and false prophet are” (20:10). This refutes the teaching of annihilation of the unsaved. In Matthew 9:44 Jesus quoted from Isaiah 66:24 “Their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.”

Jesus describes it in Matthew 25:41 & 46 as “everlasting fire” and “everlasting punishment”.

### **The Bible Teaches Eternal Retribution**

- **All of the unsaved all over the world will be killed by Christ**

(21) “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.”

The “sword” is the Word of God. Christ will execute every ungodly person with a word.

(15) “Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations.”

This is the same Jesus as in Isaiah 37:36, “Then the angel of the Lord went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand.”

Zechariah 14:12-13 describes what happens at the final battle.

“And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths. It shall come to pass in that day that a great panic from the Lord will be among them. Everyone will seize the hand of his neighbor, and raise his hand against his neighbor's hand.”

In [Matthew 25:31-44](#) Jesus revealed that He will separate the nations as a shepherd separates sheep and goats. The unsaved will be cast into hell and the saved invited into the kingdom.

**Salvation Is the Deciding Factor**