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Christ The Coming Warrior-King - Part 2

He Comes!

Throughout the history of this world there have been many happenings which were frightening and conflicts where casualties were beyond actual numbering. Some of us can remember the Vietnam war where thousands of young men and women died, or the Sunday morning when Mount St. Helens erupted. That was a catastrophic event. However, nothing in earth's history can compare with the events concerning the signs which indicate the coming of the Lord to the earth.

- a) Prior to the Lord coming, the signs will be alarming, but even they are not as fearsome as when the Lord visually comes. When He comes it will be utterly terrifying (Rev. 1:7; 6:15-17), unmistakable (Matt. 24:29-30), and universal (Rev. 1:7). This paper will consider how the Lord is coming and the severity of His judgments.

How The Lord Is Coming

The contrasts:

- a) The coming of the Lord to the earth has two contrasting results. To Israel He will come as Judge, Deliverer, Restorer and Redeemer. It will be a time of recognition, the personal efficacy secured by His sacrifice (Isa. 53:4b, 5, 6), cleansing (Zech. 13:1), and full restoration, both to the Lord and the two houses of Israel and Judah (Ezek. 37:4, 15, 22, 27). For the rebellious world His coming will be a time of balanced justice and fierce anger without mercy. I say "balanced" because the word "punished" (2 Thess. 1:9) indicates the execution of punishment that fits the crime. It will be (at that time) no more than those particular ones deserve, and no less. Much the same as Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 13:13; 19:1, 24-29). Some might ask, "Is it fair for all to be slain?" The answer from Revelation 19:19-21 is the Lord is dealing with those who will be the united military and political arm of the beast and false prophet loyalists.
 - i) All those in the armies of the beast will be those who have received his mark, worshipped the beast and worshipped Satan (Rev. 13:4, 8; 19:20). All others will be judged at the judgment of the nations (Matt. 25:31-46).
 - ii) The judgment of the nations does not mean they will be judged as a nation, but as the passage shows, they will be judged as individuals in those nations.
- b) There are two major judgments when the Lord comes to reign:
 - i) Judgment concerning Israel (Ezek. 20:37-38; Zech. 13:8-9)
 - ii) Judgment of the nations (Matt. 25:31-46)
 - iii) There are two more judgments:
 1. The judgment of the fallen angels (demons), I am not sure when that will take place (Jude 1:6)
 2. but the Great White Throne is after the removal of the earth (Rev. 20:11-15)

The Rebelliousness Of Humanity

Just as the Lord determined that the children of Israel would not be able to begin to take possession of the promised inheritance until the iniquity of the Amorites had reached its highest peak in wickedness (Gen. 15:16), so it will be with the characteristic of the peoples of the world when the Lord comes to reign. Not only will humanity be as they were in the days of Noah and Lot, but with the Restraint taken away, then the full flood of wickedness can gush out like waters of a dam. Man will become more debased and blasphemous in the passage of time so that even though man recognized the judgments are from God, he will not repent. Much the same as Pharaoh, his counsellors told him, "This is the finger of God" (Ex. 8:19), but Pharaoh remained defiant, and even when his gods had been disgraced and his own son had died, he was still defiant in that he went to get the children of Israel back. In that time, just before the Lord comes, humanity will have:

- a) Reached their utmost hatred and determination to wipe Israel off the map.

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- b) Reached the zenith of defiance against God politically, mocking the place God has determined for Christ, displacing God, His rights over humanity, and denying Him of the worship which is His due.
- c) Reached the zenith of man's defiance against God religiously in man claiming to be God.
- d) In Revelation there is revealed to us the end of the world's religions, its commerce, its leadership and its militaries (Rev. 19:18-19).

It must not be assumed that the conflicts between Christ and man will be over in a few minutes. In Daniel it is evident there is a period of 35 days after the tribulation in which the battle of the Lord's at Armageddon will take place. Furthermore, the powers of the South will come up seemingly into Israel and then people from the North will come against them and push them back into Egypt. The aggressor from the North will hear tidings from the North and will return to fight against the Lord, and of course will be utterly destroyed.

The world that rejected the covenant God ratified by the Blood of the Lord at Calvary will make a covenant with death and Hell (Isa. 28:15, 18).

The Severity Of His Judgments

When Lord comes to rule for one thousand years (Rev. 20:2-5), it will begin with the removal of the man of sin (the Beast) and the False prophet. These two individuals are the culmination of evil, being Satan's zenith of attempting by deceptively falsifying and nullifying God's exaltation of Christ on earth. The false prophet will be Satan's apex of deceptively falsifying the Holy Spirit. The Beast will be the "Commander in Chief of the earth's militaries" (Rev. 19:19), the False Prophet will be the "Supreme Commander" of earth's religion.

At the minute the Lake of Fire is empty, the first ones to be cast into it are these two men. At a moment of time they will be removed from this earth so swiftly that their transference from earth and time into the Lake of Fire and eternity will be over in a moment of time (Rev. 19:20).

- a) Why will the Lord be (in our fleshly thoughts) so severe in His judgments?
 - i) When the Lord was here, when praying He said, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do" (Jn. 17:4). While this primarily had to do with His declaring the Father's Name, "And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it" (Jn. 17:26), the last three words signified the continuance of declaring the Father's name. This means the manifestation of the character of God in the total opposition of all that mocked God, of all that is from Satan, and of all the damage and distortion done by sin. Christ lived for the glory of God, in so doing He was constantly and consistently manifesting the character of God. Consequently, when the Lord comes to the earth to reign, there must be the eradication of all that offends. There must be righteous judgment on those who mocked God's salvation, His person, prerogatives and purposes. The honour of God is at stake.
- b) The severity of His judgments.
 - i) Every passage that speak of the Lord's return to earth is dreadful beyond comprehension. In my mind the words of Isaiah 34:5 are utterly terrifying. The words that are used to describe the judgments are; "the people of my curse" (Isa. 34:5); "indignation", "fury" (Isa. 34:2); "he hath utterly destroyed them, He hath delivered them to the slaughter" (Isa. 34:2). There are two Hebrew words to describe the anger of God, "Angry" which means the outbursting of anger, and "wrath or heat" indicates abiding animosity. To "utterly destroy" indicates a place of segregation. In this context it means the individual is removed from all possible reconciliation with God.
- c) The timing of the Lord's coming.
 - i) There are a number of passages in the Scriptures which convey the timing of the coming of the Lord. It is true as our Lord said, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matt. 24:36). However, Matthew also records the words of the Lord, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days" (Matt. 24:29); "and then shall

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appear” (Matt. 24:30); “and then shall all the tribes of earth mourn” (Matt. 24:30). Note the time markers.

- d) The most basic observation is that Revelation is not written chronologically, but thematically. To get a basic understanding of the seal judgments an individual must follow the structure of the Lord in Matthew 24 which means that the 5th seal comes AFTER Matthew 24:8. The abomination of Desolation is clearly the setting up of the image of the Beast (Rev. 13:14-15), and the man of sin sitting in the temple of God “showing himself that he is God” (2 Thess. 2:4). It is not that these are atheists but they do believe in God, but not the God of Heaven, but of their own devising and this man is the terminus of supplanting the God of Heaven by the personification of the atheistic philosophy of hedonistic teaching. This is the cumulation of New Age teaching and Mormonism that man can be God and is that which Adam promised Eve. In such an environment there will be no such a thing as freedom of speech, but rather an advanced form of communism where there will be total and irrevocable submission to the government of the Beast.

The Description of The Lord's Coming

In describing the coming of the Lord it is not in parabolic or illustrative language. It is in the unmistakable clarity of expressions:

- a) Matt. 24:26-30. The immediate context is those who are false Christ and antichrists deceiving many so that they are saying, “Messiah is come and is in the dessert etc”. The Lord then tells of His coming and by use of lightening. It is evident there will be no mistaking it, like lightening flashing from the East to the West. It will be so intense that even those who pierced Him (Rev. 1:7) will see Him. I can see no reason to limit that to Israel at that time.
- b) He shall come “in the clouds of Heaven” (Matt. 24:30; Jude 1:14-15; Rev. 1:7). My understanding is it is not the fluffy white things of earth, but rather the “ten thousands of His saints” (Jude 1:14); “mighty angels” (2 Thess. 1:7); “Holy Ones” (Jude 1:14); like an approaching army filling the skies and moving unrelentingly to this earth. This will be more terrifying than the stars falling and the powers of the heaven shaken (Matt. 24:29).
- c) 2 Thess. 1:7-9 depicts that event more fearfully, “The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire”. There has been dreadful forest fires on earth consuming everything in its path, but humanity has never seen anything like this. The forest fires of earth are fires which can be extinguished, the sun is a ball of fire, but all such utterly fade into insignificance when the Lord as “flaming fire” descends to earth. It is not “descends fire” but in “Flaming fire” that is a flashing, humanity uncontrollable. It is not just the Lord who appears as a flaming fire, for the better truth is better understood in connection with Hebrews 1:7 where his angels are spoken of as “flaming fire”. Thus, the scene is the heavens opened, and out of Heaven comes the man who was rejected on earth, then with thousands of angelic hosts as a flaming fire descending. There is no escape. The expression “flaming fire” reminds one of Exodus 3:2 when Moses was at the burning bush, and of His eyes in Revelation 1:14; 2:18.

For those who are saved, perhaps we need to face the fact that there could well be people we work with, live with, who will see this event, and that is exceedingly tragic. However, more dreadful is that this is not Hell or the Lake of Fire which has yet to happen.

..... *Rowan Jennings*