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Sermon Notes

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The Second Coming of Christ

Revelation 19:11-21

I. Christ: A Wonderful Savior, a Terrifying Enemy

A. The Lion and the Lamb

1. Earlier in Revelation, in chapter 5, a vision of a LION and a LAMB

Revelation 5:5-6 Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals. " 6Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain

2. Jonathan Edwards spoke of the amazingly DIVERSE PERFECTIONS of Christ... how different a Lion is from a Lamb...
3. Lambs are meek, gentle, easily led to the slaughter, with a quiet bleat and soft wool
4. Lions are terrifying, overpowering creatures weighing over 500 pounds, whose roar can be heard over five miles away, whose teeth can rip you to shreds instantly, whose paw can crush you to the ground

B. The First Coming: Christ was like a Lamb

1. Christ was meek and gentle in his deportment to sick, dying sinners
2. Christ was patient and tender-hearted day after day

Matthew 12:20 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out

3. His most powerful self-description:

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

I AM GENTLE AND HUMBLE IN HEART!

A King whose yoke is easy and whose burden is light!

4. His most powerful action... dying on a cross like a lamb

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

C. For Twenty Centuries, He Has Acted Like a Lamb to His Enemies

1. He has borne patiently with all manner of blasphemy and abuse

Matthew 12:31 And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven...

Matthew 12:32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven

2. He has not been vindictive toward those who hated him, denigrated him, opposed, him, fought him every step of the way
3. Instead he has stood with his arms outstretched welcoming repentant sinners...

Romans 10:21 "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people."

4. Saying again and again: COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO LABOR and are HEAVY-LADEN, and I will give you REST!
5. People who were once breathing out murderous threats against Christ, who later repented, he welcomed in and did not count all their sins against them
6. BUT someday, that will end
7. At the second coming, Christ's terrifying wrath will be put on full display
8. He will roar like a lion on that day, and defend his people

Joel 3:16 The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.

9. So we can say plainly: Jesus Christ is a sweet and gentle Savior, but this morning, we will see what a terrifying enemy he will be at the end of the world

II. Promise Fulfilled: Christ Returns

A. The Second Coming of Christ is the Fulfillment of a Promise

B. Christ's Names are Revealed in the Context of his Promises to His People

Revelation 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True.

1. "faithful and true" = he KEEPS HIS PROMISES
2. He is not a liar, nor is he a promise-breaker

C. Many Promises of the Second Coming

1. Clearest... after his ascension to heaven
2. Christ died, rose on the third day, and appeared to his disciples over a period of forty day; he taught them about the coming Kingdom of God

Acts 1:6-11 So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority."⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

3. Many other promises

John 14:1-3 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me."² In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Matthew 16:27 the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.

Matthew 24:27 as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew 24:30 "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.

Matthew 24:37-39 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;³⁹ and

they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew 25:31-32 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

Matthew 26:64 I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

D. So Jesus is FAITHFUL AND TRUE to keep his promises to his people... as John wrote earlier in this book

Revelation 1:7 Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

III. The Final Battle

A. At the end of this chapter, the summons goes out to the enemies of Christ to ASSEMBLE to fight Christ

Revelation 19:19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army.

1. The "gathering" of these armies is clear
2. They have come from all over the world, assembled under the authority of the Antichrist, the "Beast"
3. Their purpose is to make war on Christ and his army, though I do not believe they thought they would be fighting Christ directly, the warrior from heaven, or a heavenly army
4. Rather, I believe they are coming to affect a GENOCIDE of the enemies of the Beast... the Jews, centered in Palestine, in Israel...
5. By now, these Jews will all have turned to Christ and embraced him as their Savior, their Messiah, both the Son of David and the Son of God
6. They have refused to bow down and worship the Beast... so the Beast makes war on them

B. This is the Battle of Armageddon, Described Earlier

Revelation 16:12-16 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. ¹³

Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴ They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. ¹⁵ "Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed." ¹⁶ Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

1. The Antichrist's worldwide kingdom is made up of lesser kings who give their power to him... he is a lesser version of the King of kings and Lord of lords
2. Revelation 17 speaks of these lesser kings and their desire to assemble and fight for the Antichrist in his efforts to wipe out all of God's people

Revelation 17:12-14 "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. ¹³ They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴ They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings-- and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

So, the Antichrist gives the order, and the demons go through all the world and deceive the kings and their people, and GATHER THEM TOGETHER for the final battle

- C. Behind the scenes... in the SPIRITUAL REALM: Satan's bitter hatred against the People of God... his desire for genocide, to slaughter all the Jews, especially now that they love Jesus!! They are no longer a "synagogue of Satan"

Revelation 12:17 Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring-- those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

- D. But the real mover here is ALMIGHTY GOD... he is GATHERING all Christ's enemies into ONE PLACE for the final battle
 1. They think they are coming to put an end to Israel, to destroy Jerusalem, to slaughter all the Christians all at once
 2. But God is gathering them to be judged and slaughtered
 3. Joel describes this perfectly

Joel 3:9-17 Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare for war! Rouse the warriors! Let all the fighting men draw near and attack. ¹⁰ Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weakling say, 'I am strong!' ¹¹ Come quickly, all you nations from every side, and assemble there. Bring

down your warriors, O LORD! ¹² 'Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. ¹³ Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow-- so great is their wickedness!' ¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. ¹⁵ The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine. ¹⁶ The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel. ¹⁷ 'Then you will know that I, the LORD your God, dwell in Zion, my holy hill. Jerusalem will be holy; never again will foreigners invade her.

So the immediate context for the Second Coming is clear: the seven bowls have been poured out; the world is in its death throes; the oceans have turned to blood and every living thing in them has died; the fresh water has also turned to blood; the sun's heat has greatly increased and is scorching the people like fire; the darkness has passed, and the Euphrates River is opened up to allow the kings from the east to come in service to Antichrist

Motivated by Satan's hatred for God and his people... also motivated by his own prideful rage at the fact that the Jews won't submit to him, the Antichrist puts out the call to all his minions, and they assemble in Palestine to slaughter the Jews... they have come to kill them all, and they assume it will be an easy battle

THEN... the HEAVENS OPEN UP... and Christ descends!!

IV. Christ the Warrior King Described (vs. 11-16)

Revelation 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.

A. Heaven Stands Open

1. At the baptism of Jesus. The skies opened and a white dove come down, symbolizing the Holy Spirit... landing on the Lamb of God
2. The first coming was about gentleness, peace, mercy, LOVE
3. Earlier in Revelation 4:1, there was a door standing open in heaven, and John was invited UP
4. This time, heaven opens to allow Jesus to COME DOWN
5. This is the final and clearest symbol of God's right to rule earth... his right to INTERFERE with the unfolding events on planet earth

6. Heaven says NO to Antichrist and to his kings and their warriors

B. The White Horse

1. And he is riding on a white horse... a clear contrast to Jesus' entry into Jerusalem the week before he was crucified

Matthew 21:5 "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

2. That entry was about PEACE... this is about WAR; he is here to wage war openly and clearly on his enemies
3. The white color symbolizes the perfect purity of Christ... the horse is merely a SYMBOL...of a conquering king
4. The horse is symbolic, but the battle and Christ's triumph are not

C. Faithful, True, Justice and Judgment

1. As we've noted, Christ is called "faithful and true"... committed to protect his Bride from all her attackers
2. The warfare he is about to wage will be overwhelming and powerful... but especially we must understand it is a display of PERFECT JUSTICE

Isaiah 11:3-5 He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

3. It is very easy for sinful human beings, when they read the accounts of the judgments of God—either this slaughter, or others (like Joshua slaughtering the Canaanites, or Samuel the Amalekites, or David the Philistines)—to question the character of God... But the perfect righteousness and justice of God is on clear display... these are WICKED WARRIORS who have come out to attack the helpless people of God, and it is time for them to die

D. Eyes of Blazing Fire

Revelation 19:12 His eyes are like blazing fire

1. This is a picture of his perfect HOLINESS... and the rightness of his judgments

Habakkuk 1:13 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong.

2. Jesus sees everything sinners on earth have ever done

3. It is a picture of his accuracy and power as the judge of all the earth

Proverbs 20:8 When a king sits on his throne to judge, he winnows out all evil with his eyes.

E. Many Crowns

Revelation 19:12 on his head are many crowns.

1. Representing his primacy in EVERY AREA of life...

Colossians 1:18 so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

2. He rules over EVERY NATION... and has earned top honors over them all

F. A Secret Name

Revelation 19:12 He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.

1. Some of Christ's names are revealed to us—even in this vision... some are hidden and known only to himself
2. John tells us of this secret, hidden name to show that there are aspects of Christ—his personality, his motives, his intentions, his nature, his works—that only he knows, and that he has not chosen to reveal to us

1 Corinthians 2:11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

3. Heaven will be a place of progressive revelation of Christ to us over ETERNITY; BUT we will never know Christ completely, so that there is nothing more to learn

G. A Bloody Robe

Revelation 19:13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood

1. This is not his own atoning blood...
2. This is the blood of the conquering hero, the slaughter all around him
3. This is the same image as Isaiah 63

Isaiah 63:1-6 Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save." ² Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress? ³ "I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my

anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing. ⁴ For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and the year of my redemption has come. ⁵ I looked, but there was no one to help, I was appalled that no one gave support; so my own arm worked salvation for me, and my own wrath sustained me. ⁶ I trampled the nations in my anger; in my wrath I made them drunk and poured their blood on the ground."

4. If someone would say, "Why is his robe dipped in blood BEFORE the battle?"
Answer: this is Christ's FINAL battle, not his FIRST battle!

H. His Revealed Name: The Word of God

Revelation 19:13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

1. As I said a moment ago, there are some names of Christ that are revealed, and some are not
2. This is a revealed name of Christ: 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 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

3. There is no doubt that the coming conqueror is Jesus Christ himself
4. The term "word" shows the power of God as he wills and decrees in his universe
 - a. By God's word the universe came into existence

Psalm 33:6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

- b. By God's word, he has actively ruled the history of man
- c. By God's word, sinners have been saved
- d. And now... by God's word, in the mouth of Christ, the wicked will be judged

I. The Armies of Heaven

Revelation 19:14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

1. These heavenly warriors come, also riding on white horses and dressed in pure linen, white and clean: PERFECT HOLINESS
2. This is all symbolic language as well... it represents angels and redeemed humans... all those redeemed throughout human history—Old Testament saints, those redeemed from all the nations during twenty centuries of church history, tribulation saints, Jews who in that final era repented and believed in Christ
3. The angels also ride with him

Matthew 25:31-32 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

Jude 1:14-15 "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones ¹⁵ to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

4. but none of the saints nor the angels will need to fight; none of them are ARMED
5. They are all there merely as WITNESSES to see what Christ will do to his enemies

J. The Sword Coming from Christ's Mouth

Revelation 19:15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter."

1. This is also symbolic, obviously... it represents Christ's WORD...
2. But that sharp double-edged sword is the most devastatingly powerful weapon in history; The sword is portrayed as SHARP... it slices through all defenses and nothing causes it to catch or pause or be blocked or thwarted
3. He will merely say "BE DEAD!" to his enemies, and they will instantly fall dead

John 18:4-6 Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?" ⁵ "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I AM!!!" Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) ⁶ When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

4. He will slaughter with the BREATH OF HIS MOUTH! As Paul said he would do to the Antichrist...

2 Thessalonians 2:8 *And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.*

5. John cites Psalm 2 very quickly here to remind us of the prophecy that the kings of the earth would oppose him and he would crush their opposition

Psalm 2:1-5 *Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? ² The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One. ³ "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters." ⁴ The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. ⁵ Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath...*

Psalm 2:8-9 *Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. ⁹ You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."*

K. The Wrath of God

Revelation 19:15 *He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.*

The earlier image from Isaiah 63 is so powerful here:

Isaiah 63:3 *"I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing.*

And this from Revelation 14

Revelation 14:19-20 *The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. ²⁰ They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia*

Jonathan Edwards's comments on this exact verse... a foretaste of hell... in his sermon, "Sinner in the Hands of an Angry God"

The KJV text of this verse says:

he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

"The Words are exceeding terrible: if it had only been said, the Wrath of God, the Words would have implied that which is infinitely dreadful: But 'tis not only said so, but the Fierceness and Wrath of God: the Fury of God! the Fierceness of Jehovah! Oh how dreadful must that be! Who can utter or conceive what such Expressions carry in them! But it is not only said so, but the Fierceness and Wrath of ALMIGHTY GOD. As tho' there would be a very great Manifestation of his almighty Power, in what the

fierceness of his Wrath should inflict, as tho' Omnipotence should be as it were enraged, and excited, as Men tend to exert their Strength in the fierceness of their Wrath. Oh! then what will be the Consequence! What will become of the poor Worm that shall suffer it! Whose Hands can be strong? and whose Heart endure? To what a dreadful, inexpressible, inconceivable Depth of Misery must the poor Creature be sunk, who shall be the Subject of this!"

L. Christ's Kingly Name

Revelation 19:16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

1. The whole world had been organized under the wicked rule of one man, the Antichrist... he was a sort of "King of kings and Lord of lords"... he used that power to gather this vast and wicked army together from all over the earth
2. Now someone infinitely stronger has come and that very day he will lose his kingdom, his life, and his soul!
3. Christ is the true ruler over every king that has ever ruled...but his authority has been hidden and mysterious, perceived only by faith
4. At his awesome Second Coming, it will be openly obvious to everyone on earth

V. The Carrion Birds Summoned (vs. 17-18)

Revelation 19:17-18 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, ¹⁸ so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great."

- A. A Summoning to the Birds... they are about to feast on the corpses of Christ's enemies
- B. The Angel Standing in the Sun
 1. Again, the supernatural darkness of the fifth bowl judgment is over... but now a might angel stands in the sun, blocking its light
 2. He cries in a loud voice, summoning the birds that fly in midair... literally "midheaven"
 3. The carnage will be unspeakable! The image is no doubt GROTESQUE
 4. Human bodies are God's direct work... he knits everyone of us together in our mother's wombs; we are "fearfully and wonderfully made"

5. But God is going to rip apart the bodies of those wicked warriors, and indeed, of every kind of person on the face of the earth... look at the different levels he mentions: **KINGS, GENERALS, MIGHTY MEN, ALL PEOPLE** (slave or free)
6. A vast slaughter... reminds us of the ominous words of Jesus

Matthew 24:28 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

7. The warriors who were there to slaughter Israel will themselves be devoured by birds

VI. Christ Conquers All His Enemies! (vs. 19-21)

Revelation 19:19-20 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. ²⁰ But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

- A. The Beast Has Exerted His Authority Against the Lord and His Chosen People
- B. The Antichrist Has His Kings from all over the World With Him
- C. The False Prophet Used All his powers to gather these kings for battle... he's there as well
- D. The Antichrist Has Never Been Defeated at Anything... that is how he gathered all that power
- E. But this is his final day, his final hour
- F. Both of them are CAPTURED... and CAST DOWN into hell
 1. This is the first mention of the "fiery lake of burning sulfur"
 2. It will five more times in the next two chapters
 3. But when it says "the smoke of their torment rises forever and ever" in Revelation 14, it is referring to this
 4. The Beast and the False prophet thus share the same eternal fate as those who worshiped him
 5. All those whom the Beast and False Prophet deceived and who cowered under their power will be amazed when they see them also in eternal torment... Isaiah 14 captures this very well:

Isaiah 14:16-20 *Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: "Is this the man who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble, ¹⁷ the man who made the world a desert, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?" ¹⁸ All the kings of the nations lie in state, each in his own tomb. ¹⁹ But you are cast out of your tomb like a rejected branch; you are covered with the slain, with those pierced by the sword, those who descend to the stones of the pit. Like a corpse trampled underfoot, ²⁰ you will not join them in burial, for you have destroyed your land and killed your people. The offspring of the wicked will never be mentioned again.*

G. The End of the Battle

Revelation 19:21 *The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.*

1. The armies of heaven do NOTHING BUT WATCH...
2. Jesus, the Omnipotent King of the Universe, needs no assistance to win this battle
3. He is not squeamish to kill... it is in his hands to give life and also to take it away
4. The carnage is so great, the birds cannot finish off all the corpses... the birds are GORGED with the flesh of all those slaughtered

VII. Applications

A. Understand Jesus More Fully and Completely

1. Christ is BOTH Lamb and Lion!
2. For us who are redeemed, he went meekly to the cross and laid down his life
3. For us, he leads us gently and tenderly; the bruised reed he will not break, the smoldering wick he will not snuff out
4. He will never leave us nor forsake us, and will lead us gently

Isaiah 40:11 *He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.*

5. But do not underestimate the power of Christ to be a LION against his enemies!
6. This chapter reveals quite plainly how terrifying an enemy he will be... there is a stunning EFFORTLESSNESS to this victory; he will not struggle, or sweat,

or strain; the SHARP sword coming from his mouth is a metaphor for the perfectly effective word of command he displays

7. The Antichrist will be the most powerful man in the history of the world... this final battle will be over as soon as it starts

B. Ponder the Fact that Christ Has a Name that No One Knows But He Himself

1. Christ has a mysterious side to him, aspects to his personality that he has chosen not to reveal
2. Learning who Christ really is will be the great adventure of heaven
3. There are infinite mysteries in him!

Colossians 2:2-3 that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

4. Paul spent his entire Christian life in the quest for knowing Christ

Philippians 3:8 I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ

Philippians 3:10-11 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

C. Unbelievers: Come to Christ NOW

1. As I've already said, Christ is a delightful Savior but a terrifying enemy
2. Christ died for his enemies, to reconcile them to God

Romans 5:10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

3. aa

D. Believers: Be Ready, Constantly Ready, for His Coming

Matthew 24:42-51 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. ⁴⁵ ¶ "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ It will

be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. ⁴⁷ I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. ⁴⁸ But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' ⁴⁹ and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. ⁵⁰ The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. ⁵¹ He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

1. Abide in him daily

1 John 2:28 And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

2. Use your talents for his glory

Matthew 25:14-19 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.

3. Be holy

Revelation 16:15 "Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed."

4. Share the gospel... warn the lost!