

REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY 17 (11:15-19)

The Return of the Lord Jesus Christ

Introduction: In this study we come to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. The seventh angel will blow the trumpet and Jesus will break through the sky. Let us look at verse 15 - READ ..

There are some principles we need to be reminded of before progressing any further:

1. The devil is the ruler of this world by permission of God. The devil is NOW in control. Remember Matthew 4 where Jesus is being tempted? The devil offered the world to Jesus if He would bow to him. This was a genuine, bona-fide, legal offer. Satan was in control and he could justifiably make such an offer. He had the right. But Jesus said "NO!" He refused the crown without the cross, refused to take the world that way. In this study Jesus is going to take the world in His hand. The tense of the verb indicates that it is a ONCE FOR EVER act. The devil will never have it again after Jesus takes it.

LISTEN CAREFULLY: The devil is trying to do all the good he can - the devil is trying to do all the good he can! This is contrary to our beliefs for most believe that the devil is doing all he possible can to cause all the sin he can, all evil and make everything bad. NOT TRUE..NOT TRUE! The old sin nature operates in man and brings sin into the world. The devil is trying to do all the good he can and is trying to create a perfect environment in the world so he will be able to say to Jesus that the millennium isn't necessary, that the second coming of Jesus is not necessary. Satan is saying "I can do what God cannot do, I can create a perfect environment, I will bring prosperity to all people, I will bring a good world, therefore the second coming of Jesus is unnecessary.

DOES THIS SOUND WRONG - UNDOCTRINAL? Listen, the devil is in this world to do all the good he can. He is behind every "do-good" system, behind feeding the poor, behind stopping wars, wars embarrass the devil for it is telling God that Satan has lost control of the situation.

All the disarmament policies man contrives simply make Satan's job easier. Man is playing into Satan's hands for Satan seeks to show man that he can bring peace without Jesus coming back. BUT the Bible says, "there will be wars and rumors of war until the end of time..." The only time war will be over is when Jesus Christ comes back to the earth.

REMEMBER - The devil is in the world to do all the good he can. He is behind Socialism, he is behind Communism and through these two systems man and Satan are saying, "We can do it without God, Christ doesn't have to come back to stop war, we can do it, Christ doesn't have to come back to feed the hungry, we will feed them, Christ doesn't have to come back to set up His kingdom, we can do what He is coming to do. THE DEVIL is in the DO-GOOD BUSINESS.

AMERICA, take a good look at our own country. Isn't this exactly what has happened to us? What does America need God for anymore? God has been taken out of the schools, out of the local governments, out of Congress, out of the national government, out of the presidency, out of the Supreme Court. What does America need God for anyhow? This is the work of Satan and this is what he wants the whole world to think and do - just what America has done.

100 years ago England was the greatest nation on earth but the Devil began his DO-GOOD work there trying to make everyone equal, equal opportunity for all and today England is in a very sad shape. Don't ever get sick over there you might just die because of SOCIALISM in the hospitals and among the doctors. SOCIALISM has ruined England and it is ruining our own country of America.

SOCIALISM wants to make everybody equal, to feed everybody, bring justice to all the world, therefore Jesus need not come back. That's why the devil is in control of this world. Jesus said, "NO, I'll go to the cross, when I wear a crown, it will be the crown that I have earned by way of the cross." When Jesus returns, the angels will sing VERSE 15.

YOU NEED TO KNOW THESE THINGS. The devil is in this world to defeat Jesus Christ. He's trying to out-do Jesus, so Jesus won't come back to earth. The saddest day in Satan's life was when Jesus made it to the cross and the second saddest day in Satan's life will be when Jesus breaks the sky in His return.

2. The coming of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. All of us know the Lord's Prayer, but really we can't pray that prayer effectively during the Church age. "Thy kingdom come, they will be done.." We can't pray that right now. When is the kingdom of God coming? When is His will going to be done? When the KING is on earth again. The kingdom of God cannot come until the King is present. When Jesus Christ returns the second time, the King will be here and then His kingdom will come in. The devil will be chained and there will be perfect prosperity, peace and love, perfect environment, etc. BUT NOT UNTIL JESUS COMES.

The Lord's Prayer is a bit out of place at weddings. Why do they sing it? The only part that might be applicable is the part about "give us this day our daily bread..." and even that translation is wrong. It should be "give us this day, tomorrow's bread..."

The disciples could pray the prayer because Jesus, the King, was here on earth with them. But you can't have the kingdom without the King. The devil is never going to bring the Kingdom and man isn't going to bring the Kingdom. ONLY Jesus Christ can bring the Kingdom.

Man can polish up all his do-good programs, white-wash the whole world, but still man can't bring in the Kingdom of God. Only Jesus Christ can do that and when Jesus does bring the Kingdom, there will be millions of the redeemed with Him, then they can pray, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done..." AND IT WILL BE SO...but not until Jesus comes back.

Please notice that a lot of loose ends are being pulled together in these last chapters of the Bible. I hope you can see that the second coming is not some weird doctrine, like those people who dressed up in white robes and all went into a house to wait for Jesus to come back. Jesus isn't going to come back to please some fanatical group. All through the Bible is woven the thread of truth that at some UNEXPECTED moment, Jesus will say, "time shall be no more" and He will get up off His throne and the sky will break and He will come back to earth. He is going to place His feet on the Mt. of Olives from which He left over 2,000 years ago. He isn't going to Calvary, He is going to sit on a throne to rule the universe for 1,000 years and then after releasing Satan for a while, He is going to cast Satan into the lake of fire and then continue His reign throughout eternity.

HERE ARE FOUR THINGS YOU NEED TO REMEMBER:

1. The Kingdom is Promised - 2 Samuel 7:8-16 - READ (there are many more references.)
2. The Kingdom was Prophesied - Isaiah 2; 11; 35; 65; 66 and many more. God said, "...the Kingdom will come and the Lamb and Wolf shall lie down together and a little child shall place his hand on the den of the cobra and there shall be peace on the earth and He shall rule from sea to sea and men shall believe in him..."

3. The Kingdom was Presented - The Christmas Story - Jesus Christ presented His credentials over and over and was rejected. The Gospels tell the story, THE KING IS HERE but the Jews refused to believe Him and put Him to death.
4. The Kingdom was Postponed - Jesus was rejected and went back to Heaven, but He left the Church age. The Churches will present the Gospel as it is going on right now. The King is waiting for the Church age to be finished and when it is, when the postponed time is finished, then the Trumpet will sound - OUR TEXT - The angels announced it, Moses and Elijah proclaimed it AND NOW the King arrives.

CHAPTER 11

v15 - "seventh angel" - the seventh (7) Trumpet

- "ever and ever" - Here are five (5) things you need to remember:

1. God will keep His word to Israel. Some are saying that since the Jews rejected Jesus, the promise is broken - NOT SO. God will keep His promise... "I will raise up from among you ONE who is My SON and he shall be the Savior of the world and He will bring justice to the world..."
2. God made unconditional covenants with Israel, to Abraham. "through thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed...I will give you this land, from the Mountains in the North to the great river in the South, this is your land forever..." God will keep that promise. God never breaks His Word.
3. The Jews scattered all over the earth at this time will return to Palestine. All those there at the present are not there because of the return of Jesus, not very many of them believe in Jesus Christ, but one day millions and millions will return and they will believe (Zacharia 8:23) (READ IT). The Jews will hear a shrill cry from Jesus Christ, a whistle and they will turn their faces to Jerusalem and they will say YES and believe in Jesus Christ. They will return by droves to their promised land and will dwell there forever. GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES.
4. Jesus Christ is going to come back IN PERSON, IN THE FLESH, to Jerusalem. He is coming in His UNIQUE person - God and Man. when Jesus Christ returns He is going to be all man and all God. Jesus will keep that promise. When He left the Mt. of Olives in His ascension back to heaven, those watching were told that this same Jesus will come back to the same place in the same way as they saw Him go.
5. WHY IS JESUS GOING TO RULE A THOUSAND YEARS? WHY THE MILLENNIUM?
When Jesus comes back, He'll put down evil, there will be perfect prosperity, a time of population explosion, nature changed completely, no briars, no weeds, etc., animals will be non-violent, non-harmful, the seeds of a plant will feed thousands, everything will be changed. Jesus Christ will rule like that for a thousand years TO PROVE TO THE WORLD THAT PERFECT ENVIRONMENT IS NOT THE SOLUTION TO MAN'S PROBLEMS. How many have said that if they only had this or that they could do so and so, NO, NO, even all that won't make a person complete, or happy..IF NOT REGENERATED IN ONE'S SOUL he/she will never be happy with anything from this world. Jesus will rule for a thousand years to prove that a perfect environment is not the solution to man's problems, to prove that things do not satisfy. However, mankind will have everything his/her heart desires for 1,000 years and even so, there will be a rebellion at the end of the millennium against Jesus Christ. The old sin nature will revive in unsaved man and Satan will be released from prison for a while so he can gather all those who do not believe AND THEN Satan and all the unbelievers will be thrown into the bottomless pit and Jesus Christ will set up His permanent, abiding Kingdom forever and ever and it will be perfect in all ways, perfect environment and regeneration for everybody will be regenerated and everybody will love God. WHAT A DAY THAT WILL BE.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN JESUS COMES BACK? 12 things you need to remember:

1. When Jesus comes back and puts His feet upon the Mt. of Olives, the first thing that is going is RELIGION. There will be no more religion in the world. the greatest enemy of mankind today is religion. Religion will take more people to hell than anything else. RELIGION IS MAN'S EFFORT TO REACH GOD and man cannot get to God by his own efforts. And when Jesus puts His feet back on the Mt. of Olives, all religion will be gone.
2. There will be a great Spirituality within the earth. There is much false spirituality today, charismatic movements, tongue speakers, healers, all sorts of weird emotional things. When Jesus returns, He will be present and then there can be un-limited emotion and go to the limits of emotions and not be in the wrong. However today people do weird, strange things - tongue speaking, rolling on the floor, shaking, running around the auditorium, shouting, jumping chairs and pews - a lot of false and foolish things but when Jesus comes back one can go to the limit for Jesus will be there to guide and control.
3. When Jesus comes back, Israel will be restored to her land, regenerate. Jesus will call them and we will visit them someday. The Jews will take us by the hand and say, "come, let me show you around" and they will explain all the things of history, they will also be redeemed and we will be brothers in Christ. WHAT A DAY FOR EVERY JEW WILL BELIEVE.
4. When Jesus comes back, war will be over. The military academies and all the military bases will be closed down. there won't be any need for them any more, no war, peace all over the world and no man killing another in war.
5. There will be universal prosperity. Psalm 72, Isaiah 62, etc. "No ill in nature, fields will blossom as a rose.." Instead of briars and disease, the earth will give perfect prosperity. No matter how many "give-away" food programs we have, we'll never bring prosperity, but when Jesus returns, He'll bring it.
6. There will be universal knowledge of God. "...and the knowledge of God will cover the earth as the waters cover the seas..." Won't it be wonderful? Everybody will know Him.
7. There will be a PERFECT GOVERNMENT - Don't you sympathize with our leaders today? The president and all the rest? They want to see what they can do but they can never meet the needs of our own country much less the rest of the world. We can pray for them, but remember, NO MAN will ever put his hands on the government of this nation or the world and make it successful. NOT UNTIL THE SON OF GOD COMES BACK and only Jesus Christ can make it go right.

When Jesus comes back, He'll defeat all the armies at Armageddon and He'll sit on the throne and when He rules, there will be perfect justice. Everybody in the world will be dealt with perfectly, Zechariah 14:9 and other texts.

8. There will be a radical change in nature. This has already been referred to. Animal and plant kingdoms will be completely tame, docile and all will be good to and for the human race.
9. There will be perfect administration of Justice. Isaiah 11:2, 4 - "Righteousness will cover the earth as waters cover the seas."
10. Unbelievers will be "rewarded" at the beginning of the millenium. Believers and unbelievers alike will receive their due.
11. Life will be extended. Instead of dying at 70 or 80 as people now do, there will be multitudes living the whole thousand years. The old sin nature will be under check, Satan will be locked up, no war, perfect environment. What is the cure for the common cold? for cancer? In the millenium there will be no more disease and nobody will get sick anymore. There will, however, be capital punishment to take care of those unbelievers who rebel against God and Jesus Christ. That is their only way man will die during the millenium.
12. The Church age saints (us) - will rule with Jesus Christ those thousand years.
REMEMBER THESE THINGS ...

v16 - "four and twenty elders" o- the great special angels

- "art" - tense means ALWAYS will be
- "wast" - was in eternity past, always will be
- "hast taken" - tense indicates perpetual, forever state, never changing
- "art to come" - not in original - remove it from the text.

v17-18 - Judgment time, the millenium is over

- "judged" - the great white throne judgment
- "prophets" - Moses and all those
- "Saints" - The martyrs of the Tribulation

v19 - "Temple of God" - NOTE - this is in Heaven, not the one in Jerusalem.

NOW, THIS IS THE BIBLE'S DESCRIPTION OF THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST....more will be added in the next study.