

Evil Versus Good!

Then Sudden Defeat!

Thursday, 10/27 at 7 + Sunday, 10/30 at 8:00 & 10:45
Reformation Day (Observed) – 2011

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, as we come today to the second half of Revelation chapter 19, we also recall – *on this last Sunday of October* – the powerful work of God *through Martin Luther and others* to shine the precious truth of the Bible into our world of sin and death! What is that truth?

- *Salvation is known by God's Word alone*, never by our own human inventions or feelings.
- *Salvation comes by God's grace alone*, never because we deserve it.
- *Salvation is received by God's gift of faith alone*, never by adding our deeds to the finished work of Jesus.

Now, *by God's action for us*, we ♦*believe the Bible*, ♦*know we are sinners*, and ♦*trust in Christ alone as Savior*. God has placed us into a blessed minority – few in number but the ultimate winners in Jesus Christ! Now, in Revelation 19, we *look ahead to Jesus' great victory when He returns!*

1. **An Awesome Description of Jesus:**

- a. **11** And I saw heaven ~~opened~~ [having been opened], and behold, a white horse, and ~~He who sat~~ [the One sitting] on it ~~is~~ called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. // In Revelation chapter 3, *in the 7th letter*, Jesus identified

Himself as “The Amen, the faithful and true Witness” (v. 14). Now, again, He is called “Faithful and True,” in other words, “**what he says is true and... what he promises will surely come to pass**” (Becker, 289).

- b. ¹² [And] His eyes are a flame of fire [*seeing and knowing all things*], and on His head are many diadems; ~~and He has a name written~~ [having been written a name] ~~on Him~~ which no one knows except Himself. // His many diadems or crowns have been accumulated in two ways: (1) the saved have gladly honored Him by giving Him their crowns, while (2) from His conquered enemies He took their crowns!
- c. ¹³ [And] ~~He is clothed~~ [having been clothed] with a robe [having been] dipped in blood, and His name ~~is~~ [has been] called The Word of God. // Based on Isaiah 63:1-6, it seems clear that *the blood* is the blood of His enemies; **read the passage!** Also, Jesus is called “The Word of God” because, in fact, He is (see John 1:1, 14)!
- d. ¹⁴ And the armies which are in heaven, [having been] clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. // Those armies are *the holy angels*, but notice that their clothing is clean *because Christ alone has done the work of our salvation!*
- e. ¹⁵ [And] from His mouth comes [goes out] a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. // The sharp sword is “the word of God” (Heb. 4:12) *which goes out of Jesus’ mouth!* Regarding *the sword* and *the rod*, Martin Luther wrote: “**Christ’s kingdom is not to be administered**

with physical power, with the sword or the rod. It is the province of the parents to wield the rod, and that of government and executioner to use the sword....

[Jesus wields] an oral rod and an oral sword.... [He] uses 'the rod of His mouth' when He judges and punishes the unbelieving world, saying: 'Whoever does not believe is doomed'" (Luther's Works, 22:222).

But TODAY that sharp sword of Jesus' mouth wants to work on all people in two wonderful ways: to remove the cancer of sin and to impart the gift of salvation; nevertheless, the day is coming when the time of salvation will be past and only wrath will remain!

- f. **16** And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name [having been] written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." // Read Luther's Works, 12:65-66.

2. **Preparing for a Great Victory:** **17** [And] ~~Then~~ I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds ~~which fly~~ [flying] in midheaven, "Come, assemble [gather together] for the great supper of God, **18** so that you may eat *the* flesh of kings and *the* flesh of commanders and *the* flesh of mighty men and *the* flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and *the* flesh of all men, ~~both free men~~ and slaves, and small and great." // The angel knows that the great victory belongs to the "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." He knows that ALL who oppose Him will die; therefore, *he calls the birds to gather and devour!*

3. **Jesus' Great Victory Over All the Forces of Evil:**

- a. **19** And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies [having] assembled [*gathered*] to make war against ~~Him who sat~~ [the One sitting] on the horse and against His army. // The forces of evil will anticipate being victorious all the way to the end; nevertheless, *JESUS WILL DEFEAT THEM!*
- b. **20** And the beast [*beast 1*] was seized, and with him the false prophet [*beast 2*] who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived [*led astray*] those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone [*sulfur*]. **21** And the rest were killed with the sword which ~~came~~ [was coming] from [*out of*] the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh. // Even though the forces of evil may seem strong, *they are nothing in comparison to Jesus – the Son of God!* Therefore, IMMEDIATELY, they will lose; the two beasts will be punished forever, and all who followed them will be killed – *but their death will not be their end!* In chapter 20 they and the devil will join the two beasts in the lake of fire where “*they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*” (Rev 20:10 NAU)

Conclusion: Now, as we continue to ♦*treasure God's Holy Word and ♦recognize our sin*, let us ever-rejoice in God's free gift of salvation that is ours *through the finished work of Jesus Christ!* And all God's people said: *Amen!*

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