**Revelation 19:11-21**

Introduction

I. This is one of the three great depictions of Christ in Revelation

A. Jesus, the high priest among his churches (Rev 1)

B. Jesus, the sacrificial lamb on the throne (Rev 5)

C. Jesus, the conquering king of kings (Rev 19)

II. Last week depicted the fall of Babylon. This week depicts the fall of the two beasts.

The Passage

I. The theme of warfare: Jesus comes as the divine warrior to defeat his enemies

-v. 11: he rides a war horse

-v. 11b: in justice he makes war

-v. 13 and 15: his robe dipped in blood because he treads the winepress of God’s wrath

See Isaiah 63:1-4

-v. 14: the armies of heaven follow him

-v. 15: he has a sword with which to strike down the nations

-v. 17-18: the angel’s call announces the certainty of the king’s victory

-v. 20 and 21: the battle itself is completely one sided

II. The theme of truth: Jesus comes as divine judge to pronounce a truthful and just judgment

-v. 11: A white horse represents the purity of its rider in whom there is no darkness or deceit

-v. 11: Its rider is called “faithful and true”

-Earlier in Revelation, Jesus is called the faithful and true witness (1:5 and 3:14)

-Now he is no longer called “witness” because now he comes as the faithful and true judge

-v. 11: in righteousness he judges

-He always makes the right judgments

-Notice the diversity of people mentioned in v. 18 (clearly Jesus is no respecter of persons, but rather judges with objectivity and righteousness)

-v. 12: Eyes are like blazing fire

-He is able to penetrating through everything and see clearly into people’s hearts to discern their hearts and minds and motives

-v. 15: the sword comes from his mouth.

Notice he is not holding a sword in his hand and hacking people

The sword from his mouth is an image of him speaking the truth, pronouncing judgment on those who have rejected the truth

-v. 13: He is called the Word of God

This is the name that goes with the image of the sword from his mouth and reveals Jesus as the authoritative one who has the decisive word on every person’s destiny (See Jesus’ own statement about his word and judgment in John 12:46-48)

III. Bringing the two themes together

A. This clearly is a battle, but in the end it is less a military battle fought with military weapons, and it is more a battle of truth conquering falsehood and deceit

B. Notice that the battle of Armegeddon is never fought in any traditional sense. Armies gather for war, but then Jesus shows up and the battle is over as soon as it begins (see Rev 16:12-21, Rev 19:21, Rev 20:9-10)

Implications for our lives today

I. We should live with a healthy fear of the Lord

A. Rather than live with a casual or complacent view of Jesus and our relationship with him, we should live with a reverence and respect for who he is

B. The implication of this reverence is that we pursue lives of godliness and Christlikeness

(see 2 Peter 3:10-11, Colossians 3, Philippians 2:12)

III. We should live as people committed to truth

A. We live in a world that rejects the truth of Christ and often reject truthfulness in general (consider the political arena, entertainment industry, workplace issues, etc.)

B. Truth can feel weak and insignificant next to the powers that be, but we are called to be faithful witnesses to the truth, knowing that one day truth will prevail

(See 2 Corinthians 4:1-2 and 2 Cor 10:3-5)

**Discussion Questions**

1. How do we square this image of Jesus as a divine warrior with the other pictures of Jesus we see in the gospels as being gracious, loving, and “gentle and humble in heart?”

2. Discuss the two themes mentioned on Sunday: the theme of warfare and the theme of truth. Discuss how those two themes mutually interpret each other in this passage. In light of that, what do you think that final return of Christ will actually look like?

3. On Sunday, we talked about “the fear of the Lord” as our appropriate response to who Jesus is. What should our daily posture be with the Lord? That is, how do you reconcile verses like “work out your salvation with fear and trembling” (Phil 2:12) with verses like “perfect love casts out fear” (1 John 4:18)?

4. Revelation 19 is an encouragement to be people who are faithful to the truth in a deceitful culture, knowing that one day the truth will prevail. Where do you find it particularly challenging to be faithful to the truth (or to just being truthful in general), and how does this passage encourage you in that?