

Read Revelation 19:11-21

What – It seems that one of most debated and discussed topics in the church today is the second coming of Jesus. Many believe that before He comes that the world will experience terrible tribulations, the likes of which we have never seen. Others believe that the struggles that the bible tells us about will occur after God's people have been taken away (or "raptured") to be with Jesus. Still others hold that halfway through this terrible time we will be taken up to heaven. The bible is, I feel, VERY INTENTIONALLY vague on this point. One thing is for sure, however. Regardless of whether you hold to a pre, post or mid tribulation on the rapture, Jesus will return to judge sin and defeat satan once and for all. The short scripture we are studying today shows us what the final battle will look like. Jesus invited John to watch and record all he saw, and here John showed us what the end of time will be like. Jesus will come in all His glory, followed by His army. Satan stands ready with his forces. In about one sentence it is all over. Satan and his followers are disbursed of and creation begins to swallow up what was not of God's doing. This scripture, considering it is the end of the world as we know it and the battle to end all battles, is surprisingly short.

Why – This scripture is important because we must NEVER lose track of the fact that GOD MUST JUDGE SIN. In our effort to understand God and share the Word, we have painted God as a God of "love". The bible says, "God is love", but we make the mistake of understanding that God is "love" like we know it. While that is part of it, God is "love" as HE UNDERSTANDS LOVE. That includes the grace and mercy we focus on, but it also includes holiness, perfection and a hatred of evil that is a part of God's character. When we understand God as grace but fail to see God's hatred of sin, we only get half the picture. God loves us more than we know, and because of that, He must do away with sin eventually, because sin is the very essence of our separation from Him. By necessity, because God is love, He must end all the sin and evil that is wreaking havoc on his creation. This will cause those who have willingly chosen not to follow Him to suffer. It is unavoidable except for the grace God has offered us in the person and sacrifice of Jesus.

WOW – The WOW's for this scripture are endless. Imagine what this scene will be like when you see it live in the future. The power and majesty of Jesus with a backdrop of "heaven standing open". I don't really think we can imagine that, can we? His eyes are like blazing fire, His robe a reminder of how much He loves you. His titles, King of Kings, Lord of Lords are emblazoned on His body, and God's creation is literally panting in anticipation of what is about to happen. And what is about to happen? Everything that has ever tripped you up, every struggle, every pain, every difficult moment or sinful thought, is about to be taken captive by God himself and sent to hell never to be seen or heard from again. The actual battle lasts only a split second, really only one word ... "BUT". "***But*** the beast was captured and with the antichrist thrown into the lake of fire." The followers of the beast will be killed. What we know inherently because we follow Jesus, satan and his minions have not seemed to figure out. God is all powerful and NOTHING will stop Him. The devil has failed to realize that for centuries what he thought was power was only God being graceful to His creation, waiting for men to hear

the message and except the truth (see 2 Peter 3:9). Even satan's power was a result of God's power and His love and patience on our behalf. Finally, the message that all of us need to remember each day as we struggle, in the end satan has NO POWER. Can you say that today? Most of us cannot, but Jesus will bring you to this point if you let Him. This scripture is an assurance of that very truth.