

THE COMING OF CHRIST

Revelation 19

In Chapter 19 we read of Christ's climactic return to earth, accompanied by his Bride, the Church saints. Christ defeats the Antichrist and his forces, slaying all who have the mark of the beast and casting the Antichrist and the False Prophet into the lake of fire. Chapter 19 is a summary of Christ's return from a heavenly viewpoint, but for the details on how things unfold on earth, and Satan's battle strategies before his ultimate demise, we look back to the Old Testament prophets.

STAGE III - THE SIEGE OF JERUSALEM

The Antichrist and his forces, sitting in northern Israel, have heard of the destruction of their capital Babylon. Furious, and with only one play left, he presses southward to annihilate the Jews in Jerusalem and instructs any surviving forces in Babylon to head to Petra (Bozrah) and do likewise to the Jews there.

Daniel 11:45 tells us that the Antichrist's army eventually reach a point between the Great Sea and the Holy Mountain, and from there they advance east to Jerusalem, surrounding the city and sieging it. Because the Tribulation has reduced society to a rudimentary level of technology, warfare returns to a medieval style. Zechariah and other Old Testament prophets tell us the Antichrist uses siege ramps, horses and swords. For a similar reason, the Jews in Jerusalem are protected, to some extent, by the walls of the city.

Jesus had already set the terms for His Second Coming for His people. As we read in Luke 13, they must call out for Him as their Messiah.

“ O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it! Behold, your house is left to you desolate; and I say to you, you will not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!' ”

Luke 13:34-35 ”

God permits this attack on Jerusalem, as it's ultimately designed to bring the Jews to repentance. Zechariah describes the assault as follows:

“ For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. ”

Zech 14:2 ”

Hosea 6 tells us that the battle would go on for two days, and then on the third day the nation of Israel would be brought to faith by the Spirit, and as they respond by calling out on Jesus, He comes to them.

STAGE IV - JESUS DESCENDS ON PETRA

Christ's glorious return to earth isn't a singular moment resulting in the immediate annihilation of His enemies. It's a carefully scripted and foretold sequence of events that spans a number of days. In Isaiah 34, the Lord describes his sword as being ready to descend and to destroy the nations. His sword is filled with blood, and first on the agenda is a specific group He has devoted to destruction - "For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah and a great slaughter in the land of Edom." - Isa 34:6.

Part of the Antichrist's forces have arrived in Petra (Bozrah) intent on hunting down the Jews in hiding. But little do they know that **they** are the prepared sacrifice, whose blood will stain the mountains. In Rev 19, Jesus descends with His army behind, but He alone does the fighting and as He arrives in Petra, all those that sought to kill His people are annihilated.

Now Micah tells us what Jesus does next:

“ I will surely assemble all of you, Jacob, I will surely gather the **remnant** of Israel. I will put them together like sheep in the fold; like a flock in the midst of its pasture, they will be noisy with men. The breaker goes up before them; they break out, pass through the gate and go out by it. So their king goes on before them, and the LORD at their head. ”

Micah 2:12-13 ”

This is a description of the remnant being released from their place of protection and provision at the end of the Tribulation. Jesus defeats those attacking the remnant and then He opens the gate and leads them out. But where does He lead this Exodus-like group to? Isaiah, in his vision as he's standing on the walls of Jerusalem while the Antichrist is attacking the city, gives us the answer. As the wall crumbles around him, flames enrage and screams are heard, he looks into the distance and asks:

“ Who is this who comes from Edom, with garments of glowing colors from Bozrah, This One who is majestic in His apparel, marching in the greatness of His strength? "It is I, the One who speaks in righteousness, mighty to save." Why is Your apparel red, And your garments like the one who treads in the wine press? ”

Isaiah 63 :1-2 ”

Isaiah sees Jesus heading towards Jerusalem coming from Bozrah within Edom. His clothes are red from the blood of the battle He just fought at Bozrah. So Jesus leads the remnant from Bozrah to Jerusalem and as He approaches the city, it is being attacked by all of the Antichrist's remaining forces.

