



Sermon Series Notes

“The Thousand Year Reign of Christ” (Revelation 19:11-20:10)
Danny Hodges – NT3612

Climate change and the danger of nuclear war pose an ever-growing threat to civilization and are bringing the world closer to doomsday, a group of prominent scientists and Nobel laureates said Thursday. "It is now three minutes to midnight," said Kennette Benedict, executive director of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, as the group moved its symbolic "Doomsday Clock" two minutes forward. The Doomsday Clock was created in 1947. It has changed 18 times since then, ranging from two minutes to midnight in 1953 to 17 minutes before midnight in 1991. It has been at five minutes to midnight since 2012 and the last time it was three minutes to midnight was in 1983, when the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union was at its iciest. "Today, unchecked climate change and a nuclear arms race resulting from modernization of huge arsenals pose extraordinary and undeniable threats to the continued existence of humanity," Benedict said. "And world leaders have failed to act with the speed or on the scale required to protect citizens from potential catastrophe." The scientists called on people to demand action from their leaders to curb fossil fuel pollution and to cease developing ever more modern nuclear weapons that are endangering the planet.

While the world is coming to a terrible end, a wedding supper is being prepared in heaven. On earth there is weeping and mourning, while in heaven there is rejoicing in the midst of thunderous praise.

19:11 Jesus comes as a just judge and warrior.

Someone a few years ago kept e-mailing me, trying to pressure me into a debate on whether God is for or against war. It was obvious to me that they were a passivist, and it was also obvious that all they wanted to do was argue, so I refused to oblige them. But had I chose to enter into a debate with them, I would have cited Rev.19:11, "With justice he judges **and makes war.**" Numbers 21:14...book of the wars of the Lord; How many battles has God lost? Greatest battle won was at the cross (Gen.3:15; I Cor.2:6-8); See Ex.14:13-14, 19-20, 23-25; Deut.3:21-22; 4:33-34; Joshua 10:11-14; Gideon; II Kings 1; 19:35); II Chron.20:12, 21-24; Ezekiel 38 & 39; Zech.14:2-5.

God is just in his judgments, and He is just in the wars that He initiates. This final war is against evil, and that evil includes men who have refused God's grace and mercy, have repeatedly rejected His offer of salvation, and have united with Satan in opposition to Him. And now He comes to settle the score once and for all!

19:12 His name is beyond human understanding; Judges 13:18...Why do you ask my name? It is beyond understanding.

19:13-14 This includes not only the angels, but the saints as well (see v.8b compared with v.14b; also see Rev.17:14; Col.3:4; Zech.14:5).

19:15-16 Victory comes with the sword of His word.

Mark 4: 39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm...41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Gen.1:3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light; 1:9 And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so; 1:11 Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation...and it was so.

How easily God can but speak a word and destroy all His enemies.

He rules the nations with an iron scepter (v.15)

- See Psalm 2:8-9
- Scepter: The staff of a sovereign ruler that is a symbol of his authority.
- There will be no political parties in this day. There will be no Congress or Senate, no United Nations. Jesus will be King over all the earth, and righteousness will reign supreme!

19:17-21 This war ends very suddenly! See Daniel 7:11

20:1-3 Satan is bound in the Abyss for a thousand years (20:1-3); Imagine this, he will have no influence in the world for a thousand years!

20:4a I believe the apostles are among those sitting on these thrones; Matthew 19:28...I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

20:4b-6 Jesus will appoint believers to positions of authority. We will be the government agents for the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Who else will be on the earth in this coming day?

The armies of the nations have been destroyed (19:21), but there will be people who are still alive at Christ's second coming. They will live on earth during this thousand year reign; See Daniel 7: 12.

We will be in our new bodies (v.4b); Our new bodies will be like Jesus' after his resurrection; Luke 24: 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

See I Cor.15: 42-53

Characteristics of Christ's Thousand Year Reign

- Christ will be a benevolent dictator
 - Benevolent: kind, caring, compassionate, generous.
 - Isaiah 9: 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.
- No one will get away with ANYTHING!
 - Isaiah 11: 3...He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; 4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.
- There will be no more war
 - Isaiah 2:4 He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.
 - Same in Micah 4:3

- There will be changes in the animal kingdom
 - See Isaiah 11:6-10; 65:25a
- People will live longer lives
 - Isaiah 65: 20 "Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed.
- Israel will enjoy the fulfillment of all God's promises made to her.
 - Zech.8: 23 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "In those days ten men from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, 'Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you.'"
 - Israel will possess all of the land promised to her.
- Despite Christ's goodness as King of the earth, men will still choose to rebel against his reign over them.
 - See Zech.14: 16-19 ; This is truly amazing to me. The earth will in this day experience paradise like conditions, as Jesus reigns supreme. But just as in the days of the first paradise (The Garden of Eden), man will still rebel!
 - Rev.20:7-10.

I believe one of the purposes of the thousand year reign of Christ is to show that man is without any excuse in his rebellion against God. Here man has witnessed the goodness of God for a thousand years, and yet his heart is still bent on evil.