

Chapter 15

The Second Coming

As the world mourns the destruction of Rome,
God's people celebrate a wedding feast.
A covenant of eternal flesh!

First century Israelis yearned for a redeemer who would destroy the Roman Empire. They turned against Jesus when his offer of salvation was spiritual deliverance from the eternal consequences of sin—and not the preferred political deliverance from Rome. At the Second Coming, Jesus will destroy world empires, to include the Roman Empire, and physically rescue Israel. Jesus will one future day rescue Israel from the Roman Empire, but only at the time of God's own choosing.

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. (Revelation 19:11-14)

Jesus will return with great power and majesty. *On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.* (Revelation 19:16) Christ will return with the armies of heaven behind him. From the valley of Jezreel (Armageddon), all nations of the earth, except Israel, will attempt to destroy Jesus as he returns.

Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. (Revelation 19:19-20)

There will be a violent harvest of Israeli believers, culminated with the overrunning of Jerusalem.

I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem ... On that day there will be no light, no cold or frost. It will be a unique day, without daytime or nighttime—a day known to the Lord. When evening comes, there will be light. On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half to the eastern sea and half to the western sea, in summer and in winter. The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name. (Zechariah 14:2-9)

Jesus returns to earth to defend Israel. Jesus will simply speak—and enemies will fall dead: *The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse. (Revelation 19:21) Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword, with which to strike down the nations. (Revelation 19:15) Paul also described this event: *And then the lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. (2 Thessalonians 2:8)**

Scavenging birds, such as vultures, will feed on the carcasses of people who opposed Christ.

And I saw an angel standing in the sun who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair. “Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great. (Revelation 19:17-18)

This is the covenant of the flesh (wedding) for the eternally damned; their flesh will become bird food. This last view closes our present Age: *and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.* (Revelation 19:21)

Glorified Flesh

In heaven, there is a celebration of incorruptible, eternal flesh. The sharing of flesh is a wedding feast for God's people.

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

"Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and be glad

And give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,

And his bride has made herself ready.

Fine linen, bright and clean,

Was given her to wear."

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God." (Revelation 19:6-9)

The future still holds the greatest Passover celebration—called the wedding feast of the Passover Lamb. (Revelation 19:7-9) Paul wrote about this event: *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.* (Ephesians 5:31-32)

Jesus spoke of this feast at the Last Supper: *When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.'* (Luke 22:14-16) Take out double negatives to gain clarification. Concerning the Passover meal *"I will...eat it again...it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."*

God's curse over Egypt led to the first Passover meal— God's wrath upon the world during the end times leads to the wedding supper of the Lamb. (Exodus 12; Revelation 19:9) Once again, the wrath of God will "pass-over" God's people. Later scripture refers to the "wife" of Lamb, signifying the completion of God's covenant. (Revelation 21:9-10)