

Pursuing Resilience in Revelation

The One True King

Revelation 11:15-19

Intro

In today's Gospel reading from Matthew 22:15-22, Jesus makes it clear to us that every human has a duty owed and that is to give ourselves over to worshipping God. As the Roman coin bore Caesar's image, we bear God's image and so we are to render ourselves unto Him. This sort of life is what we were made for, but as we know all too well, humanity has rejected God and our true purpose in Him.

This rebellion against God has disordered us at a level deeper than anything Adam and Eve could have imagined. Just when we think we have reached the pinnacle of human depravity, people find a way to top it. We are disordered because we were made to worship the One True King and instead we have chosen to hate Him and to fully rebel against His good rule. This is the human condition.

The only way to repair our broken and fallen state, is to return to God, but our hearts have been utterly warped by sin so that all of our desires are against the one thing which can actually help us. Christ came to die in order that what has been corrupted in us through sin might be redeemed and restored in Him. By becoming a man and accomplishing in our place everything we were supposed to but never could, He has become eternally worthy to rule this world as a forever perfect man who is also God. He has repatriated all of us former rebels who are willing to repent and believe the gospel and the next step is to fully recapture all of the ground of this world, bringing every tribe, kingdom, and place back under their proper King.

Discover

I. We see the Earth's future fully revealed (15-16)

“And in that day a great trumpet will be blown, and those who were lost in the land of Assyria and those who were driven out to the land of Egypt will come and worship the Lord on the holy mountain at Jerusalem.” -Isaiah 27:13

- A. The future of this world and all of the kingdoms within, is Christ.

1. This is why we so often say that the only people who are on the right side of history are those who stand with Christ.
- B. The prophetic message of the Lord's two witnesses, His church, is indeed coming true.
 1. Christ called us to preach the gospel of His kingdom and this is the message that Christ is King and that He is taking this world back from the armies of darkness.
 - a) Luke 9:20
 2. When we preach Christ and demonstrate His power by ministering with the Holy Spirit, we are foreshadowing this sure future. This is why our witness is so intimidating, and why people would often rather live with their diseases and demons than be healed by Christ.
 - a) Psalm 2:1-10
 3. If we heal and cast out demons by the Holy Spirit, then it is a sign that His kingdom is here and Satan's days are numbered. This is only a threat to those who have chosen Satan as their father.
 - a) Luke 1:33

II. We get a glimpse into the liturgy of Heaven (17-18)

Psalm 97:1-3 ESV, "The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around."

- A. The object of heaven's worship is Christ.
- B. The chants of heaven are of the truth of who Christ is, what He has done, and what He is doing.
 1. Heaven is fully aligned with the reality of the gospel and it has nothing to do with the lies of Satan, death, and hell.
- C. Heaven clearly speaks the truth about the rebellion of the people of this world, and how they have utterly failed in the end.
- D. Heaven rejoices in the fact that this mocking world will fail and God will reward His faithful servants with His fullness and the Kingdom He has prepared for us.
 1. Though the church has suffered much at the hands of those who hate God, our ending place will be wonderful while the mockers will be crushed.
 - a) Psalm 2:5
 - b) Psalm 110:5
 2. On this day, all will finally know what was the actual right side of history.
 - a) Daniel 7:10
 - b) 2 Thessalonians 1:6-7
 3. Part of our motivation for gospel work is that we do not want to see people deceived to the end when it is possible for them to be saved in Christ as we are.

III. We see God's presence fully revealed within His temple (19)

- A. The Ark represents God's presence, and here we see it clearly visible within the temple God has built which is His church.
 - 1. This Ark is not hidden from the people as it once was, but is in their midst.
 - 2. Once God's presence was distant and mystical. Now He is near, approachable, and tangible to all of His people who make up His new temple.
- B. The lightning, rumblings, and thunder represent judgment being poured out by God onto His enemies.

Nurture

Who is God? He is the Lord Almighty who is and was.

What has God done? He has taken back what is rightfully His by His own death, burial, and resurrection.

Who are we? We are His servants who have been bought with the price of His blood, redeemed forever out of darkness.

What are we being called by God to do? We are called to witness to His kingdom and to join the angels in orienting our lives around worshiping Christ for who He truly is.

Act

Christ is King, and our victory in Him is secure. Yet there are many who do not have this security. How is God calling you to reorient your life so that worship of His son is at the blazing center of all that you are?

When our lives are filled with the glory of God, this tends to spill over and others are drawn in also. Let it be so in us Lord!