

The Battle With the Beast **Revelation 19:17-21**

Let me remind you that ever since Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, there has not been a day without battle. Today “we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against spiritual wickedness in high places,” the Apostle Paul informs us.

But a day is coming when the devil’s man will do battle with God’s Man. That battle will be a battle to the finish. Up to now wars have been mainly between mortals. Men and nations have launched battles against each other. THE BATTLE WITH THE BEAST will be a different kind of war. The plans have been made and revealed in God’s Holy Word. Here is the difference. Mortals will do battle, or attempt to do battle against God. They will be lured on by the devil, and the devil believes he can win. In order to win he must engage the battle with Jesus Christ who will return to earth.

The Bible tells us of a coming day when there will be a terrible war--a war between Satan’s man and God’s Man. Revelation 19:17-21 reports THE BATTLE WITH THE BEAST.

17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

From this text we find the PLANS which will be used.

The first Plan; The Total Invitation to the Birds

That invitation will be given by the angel. The Apostle John said, “I saw an angel standing in the sun.” A most glorious place to stand, to be sure. And the angel called with a loud voice. He announced the invitation to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven.

Now, unfortunately, some people have gotten what you might call prophecy happy and have been circulating a tract in which the author claims to have information that the vultures in the Valley of Armageddon in Israel are multiplying four times faster than they used to.

I have been to Israel many times, and there is absolutely no truth in that tract. Bear in mind, God is able, to do whatever He has promised without the ideas of men.

Here is the total invitation to the birds. The announcement goes out to all of them to come; to gather, to eat. So, indeed as God was able to bring the animals to Noah’s ark, so He will bring the birds to this battle with the beast for a great feast!

And you will note what their supper will be made of, “the flesh of the kings, the flesh of the captains, the flesh of the mighty men, the flesh of horses and them that sit upon them. The flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.” By this invitation victory is expected.

This is the psychological plan, because here is the total invitation to all the birds for preparation.

The second Plan; The Total Mobilization Under The Beast

In Revelation, 13, 17 & 18 we can see humanism gone to seed. What do I mean by this? This: the mortal creature sets himself up as God. The beast out of the sea acclaims and promotes the worship of himself. That is what I call humanism gone to seed. And the beast out of the land promotes that religion even more. The mortal creature plans to make war with God! Notice in verse 19 of our text the express purpose of mobilization under the Beast is to make war against Him who sits on the horse. That One is Jesus!

God will permit this, the demonic self-exaltation so as to bring such intention to absolute ruin. It will be the battle with the beast where this total mobilization goes on with the devil’s man on one side and God’s Man on the other. Observe, “the Beast, the kings of the earth and their armies” will gather.

Chapter 17 informs us that God will put it in the hearts of those ten horns, the ten kings, to give their power and authority to the Beast for one hour. In chapter 13 we learn that the Beast out of the sea receives his power and great authority from the dragon, the devil. Thus in chapter 19 humanism controlled by demonism comes to its final hour through total mobilization under the Beast to fight the Lamb, Jesus.

Here is the numerical plan; the force of numbers, the beast, the kings of the earth and their armies. From this prediction it will be total mobilization under the Beast.

The third Plan; The Total Subjugation To the Lamb

Praise the Lord! Look what else happens in the battle with the beast. First, that beast and the false prophet are taken alive! The one in charge, the top man and his lieutenant, are taken alive. And that false prophet is identified as the one who wrought miracles before the Beast and who deceived all people who had received the mark or who worshiped the image of the Beast. The Beast worship will be completely shattered.

Remember in the beginning we noted the battle with the beast is about a religious question: whether people will worship the devil or worship God.

Now observe also that when these are taken they are cast into the lake of fire alive! Does that give you any problem? We can solve it quickly. Enoch and Elijah, the Bible informs us, went to heaven without dying. If two persons can go to heaven without dying, surely two persons can go to the lake of fire without dying.

The total subjugation to the Lamb also involves the remnant, those that were left: the armies, and the kings. They were slain with the sword of Him that sat upon the horse. Because they had sworn absolute and total allegiance to the Beast they were beyond the possibility of divine mercy.

Keep in mind God is a God of justice as well as the God of mercy. In fact, there could be no mercy without justice. But the Bible clearly instructs us that there will come a time beyond which there is no longer any mercy. Judgment is all that is left.

“And they were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse.” That should not startle you.

So just by a word, the remnant is finished. These mortals!

And the supper of the great God has been prepared by the battle with the beast . All the fowls, we are told, were filled with their flesh. This is the judicial plan to meet out justice to all! The total subjugation to the Lamb.

In the battle with the beast the worst in man will be evident. That thought implanted in the mind of Eve in the garden of Eden to be like God will climax in this demonic revolt. Man's desire to be God will end up in a war against Jesus. It seems unbelievable. However, the PLANS used will assure Jesus the victory: the total invitation to the birds, the total mobilization under the Beast, and the total subjugation to the Lamb.

Praise God! He is **KINGS OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**. Get all excited, Jesus Christ is King!