

THE SECOND CHRISTMAS

Revelation 19:11-16

Background:

Christmas is just a week away. When you think of Christmas and what Scripture has to say about the Coming of our King, what passages come to mind? In fact, as you reflect on the Coming King this week, consider what that means for your life, our church and the world. What are the implications of the Coming King? This week we will look at an account of Christ's coming. I invite you to read Revelation 19:11-16.

Call to Worship: Hebrews 2:14-18

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

Lord's Table: Emblems of Remembrance.

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus.

Introduction:

Every year at Christmas we remember the first Christmas. The church has taken time to mark and celebrate the occasion. Christmas week, the coming end of the year, we stop and take time to remember the 'Birth of Christ'. For two thousand years now, the Christian Church has marked 'The Incarnation' -- God in Flesh, Christ's coming to Earth. This is the 'Christmas reflection' in this current age.

But an age is coming, The Age of 'THY KINGDOM COME', when the Kingdom of God will reign and rule the earth for 1000 years. For 1000 years, yet to come, every man, woman, government and nation will come under the dominion of the 'King of Kings'. The LORD JESUS CHRIST WILL REIGN ON EARTH for 1000 years. And in that future age, the Christmas reflections will be very different from those in the current age. In that new age to come, the little children may well still bring forth Matthew chapter one, and Luke chapter two, and recount the birth of Christ, and maybe there will still be trees cut down for the celebration, however, in those 1000 years to come, that first Christmas won't be the predominant Christmas memory. No. They will also look back on the 'SECOND CHRISTMAS', the 'Second Christmas' that is told about clearly in Revelation 19:11-16. The 'Second Coming' of Jesus Christ is indeed, the 'Second Christmas', and is the consummation and fulfillment of Christ's coming to earth. And that is important for us to acknowledge as we begin our Christmas week.

Mark the differences between the 'two comings of Christ'. The arrival of Christ at the 'first Christmas' was very different from how He will arrive at the 'second Christmas'.

At the first Christmas, Christ came by a 'womb' delivery.

At the second Christmas, Christ will come by 'heaven opening'.

The first Christmas was 'manger' ready, with feeding animals about.

The second Christmas will be 'military' ready, He on a white horse, the picture of a ready soldier, a coming King.

The first Christmas Christ arrives to earth and is under an execution order by one jealous and evil king.

But on the second Christmas arrival He will come to strike down and execute all wicked kings.

The first Christmas Christ came forth as the lowly helpless babe.

The second Christmas will bring Christ as the powerful military warrior.

The first Christmas Christ comes with an offer of salvation, and patience, and long suffering to follow that offer.

But this time, in the second Christmas, Christ arrives on earth with a different purpose and mission, for 'time has run out', and the end has come.

In the first Christmas Christ arrived in grace in truth (John 1), and was judged by the wicked.

At the second Christmas Christ will come in 'wrath and justice', and this King will judge the wicked.

Revelation 19:11-16

"And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war. And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head diadems; and He has a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself. And He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on

His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." (NASB)

This coming, as described here in Revelation 19, is indeed, the 'SECOND CHRISTMAS', the fulfillment of all that Christ's coming has promised. It is the fulfillment of time. It is the consummation of God's Plan. This 'coming Second Christmas' is what everyone has been waiting for all of redemption's history, what 'His People' have been anticipating since the very beginning of time. This coming Christmas was first pointed to, to the serpent, back in Genesis.

Genesis 3:15

"And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her seed;
He shall bruise you on the head,
And you shall bruise him on the heel." (NASB)

What Christ crushed 'spiritually' at His first coming, is now 'physically' crushed completely at His second coming. All is fulfilled at His second coming and the subsequent events: war, victory, subsequent kingdom rule, the lake of fire. And all the story has been foretold. Let us consider a 'survey' of such Scripture.

The scepter will come from the Line of Judah.

Genesis 49:8-12

"Judah, your brothers shall praise you;
Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;
Your father's sons shall bow down to you.
Judah is a lion's whelp;
From the prey, my son, you have gone up.
He couches, he lies down as a lion,
And as a lion, who dares rouse him up?
The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
Until Shiloh comes,
And to him shall be the obedience of the people." (NASB)

He, being the righteous Branch; and the 'rod of iron', spoken of in Revelation, were foretold by the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 11:1-4

"THEN a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse,
And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.
And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him,
The spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The spirit of counsel and strength,
The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
And He will delight in the fear of the LORD.
And He will not judge by what His eyes see,
Nor make a decision by what His ears hear;
But with righteousness He will judge the poor,
And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth;
And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked." (NASB)

The prophet Joel also speaks of the time of this 'second Christmas' when the King returns, and judgement comes upon the nations.

Joel 3:1-2,9,12

"FOR behold in those days and at that time,
When I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,
I will gather all the nations,
And bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat.
Then I will enter into judgment with them there
On behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel,
Whom they have scattered among the nations;
And they have divided up My land....
Proclaim this among the nations;
Prepare a war; rouse the mighty men!
Let all the soldiers draw near, let them come up!
Let the nations be amused
And come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat,
For there I will sit to judge

All the surrounding nations." (NASB)

And Zechariah speaks of the return of the King and the splitting of the earth.

Zechariah 14:1-2a,3-5b,9

"BEHOLD, a day is coming for the LORD when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you. For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle...Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations as when He fights on a day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south...

Then the LORD, O My God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him! And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one." (NASB)

The Law, the Prophets, and also the Psalms, foretell the 'Second Coming', clearly prophesying His return.

Psalms 96:11-13

"Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
Let the sea roar, and all it contains,
Let the field exult, and all that is in it.
Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy
Before the LORD, for He is coming;
For He is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness,
And the peoples in His faithfulness." (NASB)

Psalms 2:7-9 (A Messianic Psalm commentary on Revelation 19)

"I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD:
He said to Me, Thou art My Son,
Today I have begotten Thee.
Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thy inheritance,
And the very ends of the earth as Thy possession,
Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron,

Thou shalt shatter them like earthenware." (NASB)

And the New Testament echoes the same message.

Matthew 24:29-30

"But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL FROM THE SKY, and the POWERS OF THE HEAVENS WILL BE SHAKEN, and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory." (NASB)

Romans 2:5

"But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;" (NASB)

This is the 'SECOND CHRISTMAS' that Paul speaks of, when righteous judgement will be revealed, granting relief to the afflicted, and vengeance on those who fail to know God and the Lord Jesus.

II Thessalonians 1:6-8

"For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus." (NASB)

These won't be the pictures seen on the Christmas cards of today, but this is the reality of the 'SECOND CHRISTMAS'; THIS IS CHRISTMAS, THIS IS THE 'SECOND COMING' OF CHRIST.

This is not an 'easing' into His return and His Kingdom. No. Such is not what the Bible teaches. This is not a capstone matter of things getting better in this world. This is the 'Second Coming'. This is Christ, suddenly arriving to a destitute world, to a world at its very worst, to a wrath stained, blood stained world, absolutely paralyzed world. You may well ask, 'How can the earth get any worse than it is today?' But the Bible says it will get worse. Then suddenly Christ

embarks. Heaven suddenly will open, and the King of Kings will come down, striking the earth, and shattering the false kingdom. This truth is described in the book of Daniel.

Daniel 2:44

"And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever." (NASB)

This is the 'SECOND CHRISTMAS'. The initiation of this process, as described in Revelation 19, is the establishing of the kingdom where Christ will rule with a 'rod of iron'. This is 'SECOND CHRISTMAS'. This is 'kingdom arrival', SUDDENLY, IMMEDIATELY, and DEVASTATINGLY. This is Heaven open. This is The King coming down. This is power and might. This is the only way it can happen as nations get worse. The church will not win the nations. The church will not conquer the kingdoms. This was never the mandate prophesied. More evidence of this 'self destructing' world is described further in Romans. We read:

Romans 1:18-32

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonoured among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire towards one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all

unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, malice; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those practice them." (NASB)

The world will turn away from God, over and over again, and so in the end will receive what it desires. It wants nothing to do with God, and that is what it will get.

And so the time of 'SECOND CHRISTMAS' comes, and THE KING, JESUS CHRIST, ARRIVES!

I THE KING'S APPEARANCE: (Revelation 19:11-13)

Revelation 19:11

"And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war." (NASB)

Some 'SECOND COMING' realities:

1. His 'first coming' was very different from this 'SECOND COMING'.

This time He will not come via a corner of Bethlehem. This time His coming will be very public, in a glorious display of 'POWER AND MIGHT'. He cannot, and will not, be missed. Christ will come by Heaven opening. The event is meant for everyone to see.

2. The first of 'FOUR NAMES' of Christ are given:

The rider is called 'FAITHFUL and TRUE' (Revelation 19:11b).

Revelation provides the context for this name, and affirms it.

Christ is the Faithful Witness:

Revelation 1:5

"... and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood." (NASB)

Christ the True One:

Revelation 3:7-8a

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this; 'I know your deeds'." (NASB)

Christ the Faithful and True Witness:

Revelation 3:14-15a

"And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: 'I know your deeds'."

The New Testament confirms that Christ is Faithful and Just: (This provides us with our great hope.)

I John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous ('just' in KJ) to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (NASB)

Christ is Faithful: (The early church stood on this fact, and we do too.)

II Timothy 2:13

"If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He can not deny Himself." (NASB)

Christ is The Truth: (Meaning, not 'a truth', but, the ONLY TRUTH.)

John 14:6

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.'" (NASB)

Christ is the 'FAITHFUL and TRUE'! We will stand because our God is 'FAITHFUL and TRUE, forever.

3. The Purpose of the Mission:

Christ comes TO JUDGE AND WAGE WAR (Revelation 19:11b).

The 'SECOND CHRISTMAS' will be very different from the first Christmas. This 'SECOND COMING' does not usher in an age of Gospel invitation as the first one did. No. This is not a peaceful long-suffering invitation appearance this time. The purpose this time is to reconcile 'all people' to God. This is 'saving reconciliation'. If the debt is paid, then the way is cleansed clear. If the debt is for those who have repented, then it is paid, and they will have everlasting life. But, for the rest, if an outstanding debt remains, it still has to be paid. If not reconciled to their Maker, reconciliation still must be made. They will face judgement through war, and the 'rebels' will be destroyed forever in the lake of fire.

Revelation 19:19-21

"And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat upon the horse, and against His army. And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat upon the horse and all the birds were filled with their flesh." (NASB)

This is the 'APPEARANCE of CHRIST' at the 'SECOND COMING'. This is reconciliation completed. This is 'SECOND CHRISTMAS'.

4. Christ's 'Physical Appearance':

Not only is the mission different, but Christ's appearance is different. He comes not as the 'helpless babe', but as the victorious and majestic 'KING OF KINGS'.

Revelation 19:12-13

"And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head are many diadems; and He has a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself. And He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God." (NASB)

Christ's robe, we learn, is 'dipped in blood'. And He has a name that no one knows, except Himself. And His eyes are 'afire'. That His eyes are like a 'flame of fire' is a standard description of Christ throughout Revelation.

Revelation 1:14,

"And His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire;" (NASB)

Revelation 2:18

"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: 'The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze ...'" (NASB)

These are the eyes of justice. These are the eyes of the Almighty. These are the eyes of the conquering KING.

And not only has He a crown on His head, but has 'diadems', (which were the band around the king's head). Hence, Jesus has many crowns, signifying His Kingship. This is Jesus Christ, ruling KING. Unlike earthly kings, He is King with absolute rule, and absolute sovereignty, over all other kings, and all other diadems.

And we learn of His second of four names. This is a name written, but that no one knows but Himself. There remains, therefore, still 'mystery' around our KING. This reminds us of how 'sovereign' this God of ours is. Only He knows this name which is His.

This is Christ, being revealed to the world, publically, globally, for all humanity to see, to acknowledge, as the KING OF KINGS.

Let us consider the graphic description of His attire. He is clothed in a robe that is 'dipped in blood'. And we, at first glance assume where this blood has come from. For Christ, via the 'First Christmas' became the 'sacrificial Lamb'. Christ, the Lamb, came to shed HIS blood, on the Cross, for the sake of His own, to save His own.

John 1:29

"The next day he (John the Baptist) saw Jesus coming to him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'"

Matthew 26:28

"... for this is My blood of the covenant, which is to be shed on behalf of many for forgiveness of sins." (NASB)

Christ, shedding His blood, "became the guarantee of a better covenant" (Hebrews 7:22), a 'new covenant' (Hebrews 8:6). (NASB)

Hebrews 13:20

"Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord." (NASB)

However, in this 'SECOND CHRISTMAS', again there is a difference from the first. The shed blood here in 'SECOND CHRISTMAS' is the blood of 'justice', the blood of reconciliation, but not for Christ's own this time. No. This is the blood of those who rejected Christ, 'the rebels'. This is 'SECOND COMING', not to save His own (which He has already done), but rather this is 'judgement' and 'reconciliation' of those who are not His own. Mercy marked the 'first Christmas', but 'justice' marks the 'SECOND CHRISTMAS'.

This very event was prophesied seven hundred years before Christ 'first' came, that there would be rebels who would not bow down to this King, but that there would also be shed blood of those who rejected Him. Fulfillment that was prophesied by Isaiah the prophet, comes to be in Revelation 19.

Isaiah 63:1-5

"WHO is this who comes from Edom,
With garments of glowing colours from Bozrah,
This one who is majestic in His apparel,
Marching in the greatness of His strength?
'It is I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save,'
Why is Your apparel red,
And Your garments like the one who treads in the wine press?
'I have trodden the wine trough alone,
And from the peoples there was no man with Me,
I also trod them in My anger,
And trampled them in My wrath;
And their life blood is sprinkled on My garments,

And I stained all My raiment.
For the day of vengeance was in My heart,
And My year of redemption has come,
And I looked, and there was no one to help,
And I was astonished and there was no one to uphold;
So My own arm brought salvation to Me;
And My wrath upheld Me.
And I trod down the peoples in My anger,
And made them drunk in My wrath,
And I poured out their life blood on the earth'." (NASB)

Let us mark, and marvel how Scripture comes together: prophecy given, and prophecy fulfilled.

Christ's third name is provided outright, 'The Word of God', His name attributed to Him from the beginning of time.

John 1:1

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (NASB)

'I AM THE WORD OF GOD'. 'THE WORD'! 'THE LOGOS'! What a picture! Christ, the KING OF KINGS, 'the reason', there before us in splendour, in the midst of a military motiff. This is the KING'S physical APPEARANCE, foretold in Isaiah 63, and manifested in Revelation 19.

II THE KING'S ARMIES: (Revelation 19:14)

Revelation 19:14

"And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses." (NASB)

So, who are these armies who are following Him on white horses? The context answers this question. Who else is dressed like this, in white linen? That is, who aside from Christ, is dressed like this? And this very chapter provides the answer, 'The Bride' of Christ.

Revelation 19:6-8

"And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude and as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.' And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints." (NASB)

The 'armies' then are 'The Church', 'His bride', dressed in 'fine linen', white linens, which represent the 'righteous deeds' of the saints. This is the consummation of the marriage, the bride and bridegroom 'coming together', and flowing out of that are the 'righteous deeds' of the saints, wearing these robes of white linen. The prophet, Zechariah, confirms who these people, these 'armies', are.

Zechariah 14:5

"And you will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD, O My God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him!" (NASB)

These are the 'holy ones', the New Testament saints, the set apart ones, who will come with Him in fine linen. This is the 'SECOND CHRISTMAS'.

At the 'first Christmas' Christ came 'alone', a babe. But at the 'SECOND CHRISTMAS' Christ comes 'NOT ALONE', but with His armies, and all are in fine white linen. (Is this not our wonderful hope!) No angels need to appear with instructive dreams, or to herald shepherds. This is not a time of calling people to Himself. No. This time He, the KING, comes with those who are already His.

III THE KING'S ADVERSAIRES: (Revelation 19:15-16)

Revelation 19:15-16

"And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will ride them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, 'KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS'." (NASB)

Christ returns to strike down the nations. This is military conquest! Out of His mouth comes a sword, for He will strike down the nations. For 'SECOND CHRISTMAS' is Christ's coming to rule! He returns 'to rule' with a 'rod of iron'.

Revelation 1:16

"And in His right hand He held seven stars; and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength." (NASB)

This righteous reign is 'ancient prophecy fulfilled'.

Isaiah 11:4

"But with righteousness He will judge the poor,
And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth;
And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked." (NASB)

Genesis 49:10

"The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
Until Shiloh comes,
And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples." (NASB)

Psalms 2:9

"Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron,
Thou shalt shatter them like earthenware." (NASB)

Revelation 2:26-27

"And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father." (NASB)

This is not a local rule. This is global, spherical, universal rule, whole earth rule, with an iron rod. COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS!

Today, now in 2020, it feels like a 'visible virus' is ruling, like Covid reigns over the hearts of mankind, and that tyranny and oppression are winning. But tomorrow, this will not be so. Tomorrow brings 'SECOND COMING', when He rules, when He reigns. So, when times come and it feels like tyranny and oppression are winning, we must remember that justice is coming.

Revelation 19:15b

"... He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty." (NASB)

This will be justice weighed, justice enacted, and justice compounded! God's wrath is not usually identified with the 'first Christmas', but God's wrath is a major theme of 'SECOND CHRISTMAS'. God's wrath 'crests' here. It is spoken of thirteen times from Revelation chapter 6 through to chapter 19. God's wrath is in definite view.

Revelation 14:19

"And the angel swung his sickle to the earth, and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God." (NASB)

The great wine press is the picture of 'judgement'. The wine press was often hued from rock, a cavity in the rock with smaller arteries, allowing for the juice from the trampled grapes to flow into a lower pool. And the wine press is stained red from the years of stomping and pressing. And who 'stomps' in this wine press? It is God Almighty. 'God Almighty', is an Old Testament name. And Exodus refers to God by the name 'God Alone', a name that is used ten times in the New Testament, nine in the book of Revelation. It is only 'God Almighty' who has the authority, the power, and the title, to enter the wine press and to deal with His adversaries.

And here, we have the fourth 'title' and name of Jesus. We note that 'His title' is on both His body, and His garment. His name: 'KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS'.

Revelation 19:16

"And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, 'KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS'." (NASB)

This identical name is referenced again in Revelation, also in relation to the adversaries.

Revelation 17:14

"They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers." (NIV)

This name for the Sovereign God echoes even further back, to the name that is given to Israel, that they should know Him and understand Him more clearly.

Deuteronomy 10:17

"For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the LORD of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality, nor take a bribe." (NASB)

The Apostle Paul also refers to Christ as the 'Lord of lords' in a charge he makes to Timothy.

I Timothy 6:14-15

"that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the proper time --- He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords;" (NASB)

The 'KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS'.... Jesus Christ is above all others. Of all the kings of the earth, He is ultimate King. Other kings may be lined up, whoever they may be, and other items, idols, persons, things, whatever may be granted a lordship, but regardless, there is but one obvious reality, and ONE LORD over them all, that being, JESUS CHRIST. There is no other power, no other name. Only Christ Jesus has the 'rightful' Lordship over all other lords. And with that authority and title, 'THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS' deals with them, 'His adversaries', and justice is served by their 'rightful KING'.

And while you may not have come expecting to hear this, the 'SECOND CHRISTMAS' is what we need to hear about now, at the end of 2020, for it is, indeed, OUR ONLY HOPE.

Three Reasons Why 'SECOND CHRISTMAS' is Our Only Hope:

1. THE COMING KING IS CERTAIN:

Estimates concerning the 'first coming' of Christ are significant, with 350 occurrences, however, the estimates that point to the 'second coming' are 1527 verses. That means that one out of

every twenty-five verses points to the 'SECOND COMING'. Four times more verses are focused on the 'second coming' than were focused on the 'first coming'. This is most significant. We are, therefore, assured that He is near to return, and assured that HE IS COMING!

2. Not only is 'He' Coming: JUSTICE IS COMING:

'Injustice' will be dealt with! And lots of it. Every age has dealt with 'injustice'. The cries of the ages, 'How long, O Lord?' 'Do You not see the evil, Lord?' will be acknowledged. Yes, the Lord sees, and always has seen, and has had a plan in place for dealing with it. At the 'first Christmas' Christ dealt with our heart's depravity, but at the 'SECOND CHRISTMAS' Christ will deal with evil, finally and completely. Though it feels like evil will never end, indeed evil will end. That is our very hope. THE KING IS COMING, AND HE WILL MAKE IT RIGHT. Justice is Coming!

3. THE 'WEIGHT' OF CHRIST'S SECOND COMING:

The 'fear of death' is driving the bus on everything that is going on today. People do not want to die. And yet death does come to us. That is a fact of life. This year at Westmount, three people have died. Four of the church family have lost parents. Therefore we must consider death, this Christmas, this year. Why so? Because God has ordained this to be a year of death. This is a reality. Death is here. (And the pandemic makes us all the more aware of it.)

Now we might have, could have, spoken on 'happier thoughts', love harder, for example, but the truth is, WE WANT HOPE, WE NEED HOPE. And "HOPE" is the 'SECOND COMING', the KING'S COMING; that is our 'HOPE'. No medicine, no vaccine, no particular riot, no protest or lockdown is going to help. We do not need shallow promises. No. We need truth, and this is the Truth. Christ's 'SECOND COMING', the 'SECOND CHRISTMAS', is our VERY HOPE for the coming days. To get us to Christmas '21, we need the 'THE HOPE' of the only 'HOPE'!. THIS 'HOPE' is the SECOND COMING, THE COMING OF THE 'KING OF KINGS'.

God has ordained this time to purify the church, and to purge our hearts. We are facing a world trying to control its own destiny, which it can't. But this is the point now, at this time, to look at the certainty of 'THE SECOND CHRISTMAS'.

We consider the baby of the 'first Christmas'; but this is no ordinary child. This is the COMING KING. He came once and He is coming again. Anchor YOUR 'HOPE' in His return.

Thank you, Lord, for sending Your Son again. Help us to look forward and up. May we be ambassadors of this 'HOPE' to this broken world. Amen

Benediction:

Acts 17:30-31

"Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." (NASB)

GO, therefore, IN 'HIS ASSURANCE' THIS CHRISTMAS!

Postscript: Christmas Eve Service

Scripture Readings: John 1:9-18, Luke 2:14, Matthew 1:18-25

'THE WORD OF GOD'

John 1:1

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." (NASB)

The contrast of 'first Christmas' and 'second Christmas':

We remember 'first' Christmas with cards showing the helpless babe, the stable.

We look to the 'second' Christmas with anticipation of the opening of heaven, and the 'coming' of the conquering KING.

Yet it is the same Son of God. He is called 'THE WORD OF GOD'.

Revelation 19:13

"And He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called The Word of God." (NASB)

The concept of 'the word' in the world was at one time impersonal and governing, but in modernity, 'the word' has lost all meaning.

Yet The Bible has lots to say about 'THE WORD', and 'THE WORD' is not devoid of meaning. 'THE WORD' is THE CHRIST.

1. 'THE WORD', Christ, is eternal. He was 'pre-existent'. He is present in Genesis 1. He has always been, and is eternal. Everything else is temporal. Everything is 'anchored in the 'eternal One'.

2. 'THE WORD', Christ, is all powerful.

Colossians 1:16-17

"For in Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities --- all things have been created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Genesis: 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (NASB)

By His declaration, 'Let there be light' It became so.

Though darkness presses in, and things feel hopeless, indeed, the darkness has NOT overcome the Light.

John 1:5

"And the light shines in the darkness; and the darkness did not comprehend it. (NASB)

3. 'THE WORD' of God, Christ, was rejected.

John 1:10-11

"He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him," (NASB)

Real TRUTH is always rejected. It is not our default. We do not want to accept it. Why? Because of the implications. The difference between light and darkness is 'eternal', and people 'fear' what is to come, and so they avoid it, they reject it, so that they do not have to deal with it.

What is this TRUTH? Christ offers 'new life', rebirth, life beyond now, life for eternity. Christ, the Light of the world, has made a way in the darkness.

John 1:12-13

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name: who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (NASB)

4. 'THE WORD', Jesus Christ, made GOD known.

God came down. God came close. God took on flesh. God drew us close.
HE IS EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US!

John 1:14,18

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

"No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him." (NASB)

While the world tells everyone to isolate, to stay at home, to get back, God has a different message. GOD DRAWS US CLOSE. Dark days lie ahead, but this is our HOPE, our JOY and PEACE. THE FATHER WANTS TO DRAW US EVER CLOSE. HE WANTS US TO KNOW HIM.

Father, thank you for Your Son, who came, so that we might know You. Amen.