

## ENDGAME

### A Study On Revelation (Week #180)

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#### Revelation 19 \_\_\_\_\_

- Crowd In Heaven
- Destruction of Babylon
- Wedding Feast and Celebration
- Angelic Interaction
- Fifth horseman
  - Verse 11: Rider & Horse
  - Verse 12: Name, Eyes & Crowns
  - Verse 13: Robe & Title
  - Verse 14: Who are the armies?
  - Verse 15: The Sword, Judgement, Iron Rod, and Winepress
  - Verse 15: Armageddon

#### Revelation 19 \_\_\_\_\_

- Beast and False Prophet captured
- Fiery lake of burning sulfur
- Banquet of the Beasts

**Revelation 19:11** Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. **12** His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. **13** He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. **14** The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. **15** From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. **16** On his robe at his thigh [*Or On his robe and thigh.*] was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords. (NLT)

**Revelation 19:11** And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. **12** His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many crowns; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. **13** He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. **14** And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. **15** From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down 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. **16** And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written: "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." (NASB)

**Revelation 19:11** Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. **12** His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. **13** He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. **14** And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. **15** Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. **16** And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (NKJV)

### Sharp Sword

- Word from His mouth

### Striking Down Nations

- Earthly powers against God

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### Scepter

- ... He will rule them...
  - Rod: ῥάβδος; (Greek - rhabdos [hrab'-dos]); rod, staff, scepter; cudgel, a cane or a baton of royalty;
  - The phrase mirrors Psalm 2:9 and is echoed in Revelation 2:26-27 and 12:5.
    - ▶ The Messiah's rule is unbreakable, firm, and completely righteous.

**Psalm 2:9** You will break them with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots." (NLT)

**Revelation 2:26** To all who are victorious, who obey me to the very end, To them I will give authority over all the nations. **27** They will rule the nations with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots. (NLT)

**Revelation 12:5** She gave birth to a son who was to rule all nations with an iron rod. And her child was snatched away from the dragon and was caught up to God and to his throne. (NLT)

- Iron underscores durability; no coalition can overthrow His kingdom.
- Iron conveys unbreakable strength; the scepter signals royal authority.
  - ▶ Reaffirm that Christ—and believers who share His victory—exercise this unyielding rule.

- ▶ If you are a wolf—or a dragon—then that rod of iron will be your destruction. Evil, no matter how well established or highly organized, will be broken like pottery under the firm application of divine justice. The world will be made right. The Shepherd will care for His flock.

**Daniel 2:44** “During the reigns of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever. **45** That is the meaning of the rock cut from the mountain, though not by human hands, that crushed to pieces the statue of iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold. The great God was showing the king what will happen in the future. The dream is true, and its meaning is certain.” (NLT)

- Unlike the fragile governments of this age (compare Daniel 7:17-18), Christ’s administration will be global, just, and everlasting (Isaiah 9:6-7).

**Daniel 7:17** “These four huge beasts represent four kingdoms that will arise from the earth. **18** But in the end, the holy people of the Most High will be given the kingdom, and they will rule forever and ever.” (NLT)

**Isaiah 9:6** For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies will make this happen! (NLT)

- Believers share in His reign (2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 5:10), but the authority remains His.
  - ▶ This invites confidence in the stability of Christ’s coming kingdom.
  - ▶ His reign is not merely spiritual; it is tangible, global, and irresistible.

**2 Timothy 2:12** If we endure hardship, we will reign with him. If we deny him, he will deny us. (NLT)

**Revelation 5:10** And you have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign on the earth.” (NLT)

### Winepress Of \_\_\_\_\_

- He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.
  - The imagery recalls Isaiah 63:2-6, where the LORD personally “trampled” the nations in judgment.
    - ▶ Revelation 14:19-20 used the same picture.

- \_\_\_\_\_ of Events
  - We do not know the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, but what do we \_\_\_\_\_?
  - One of the two times Jesus gave this reminder.

**Matthew 24:35** "Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear. **36** "However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows." (NLT)

- Who knew when Jesus would arrive?
  - Israel (Week #31)

**Daniel 9:24** "A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to finish their rebellion, to put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. **25** Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler—the Anointed One—comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times. (NLT)

- 7 weeks + 62 weeks = 69 weeks x 7 sets
  - ▶ Missing 70th week - \_\_\_\_\_
- Decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus
  - ▶ March 14, 445 B.C.
  - ▶ Documented by Sir Robert Anderson, 1894, "The Coming Prince"
- It wasn't until Palm Sunday that Jesus allowed people to refer to Him as the "Messiah" ["The Meshiach Nagid" (Ma-she-ock Na-geed) Messiah The King]
  - ▶ Up to this point, Jesus would say it was not the right time, not His time.
  - ▶ What changed?

**Zechariah 9:9** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (NASB)

**Luke 19:38** shouting: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (NASB)

- When we miss the point - the Pharisees come to our rescue
- When they are upset, it's a clue and insight to us Gentiles

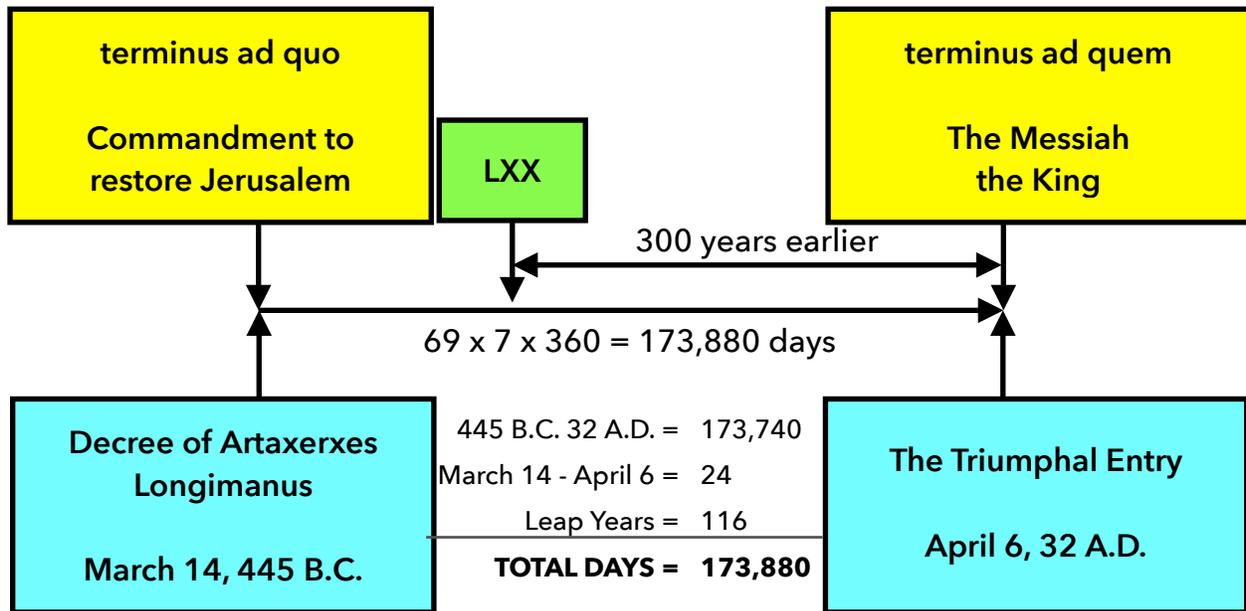
**Luke 19:39** Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." (NASB)

- ▶ Singing that song, under these circumstances...
- ▶ This was declaring Jesus the Messiah
- ▶ This is blasphemy if it were not true

**Luke 19:40** But Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!" (NASB)

**Nehemiah 1:1** In late autumn, in the month of Kislev [November and December 446 B.C.], in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was at the fortress of Susa. (NASB)

**Nehemiah 2:1** Early the following spring, in the month of Nisan, [March and April 445 B.C.] during the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was serving the king his wine. I had never before appeared sad in his presence. (NASB)



- Mathematical Prophecy
  - ▶ Artaxerxes Longimanus ascended to the throne of the Medo-Persian empire in July 465 B.C. (Encyclopedia Britannica, 1990 ed.). The twentieth year of his reign would have begun in July 446 B.C. The decree occurred approximately nine months later in the month of Nisan (March/April on our calendar).
  - ▶ By Hebrew tradition, when the day of the month is not specifically stated (as in Artaxerxes decree), it is given to be the first day of that month.

Consequently, the very day of Artaxerxes' decree was the first day of the Hebrew month Nisan in 445 B.C. The first day of Nisan in 445 B.C. corresponds to the 14th day of March.

- ▶ These dates were confirmed through astronomical calculations at the British Royal Observatory and reported by Sir Robert Anderson (Robert Anderson, "The Coming Prince", Kregel. Reprinted in 1984.).
- ▶ There is, in fact, another way to check the accuracy of this date. In the Gospel of Luke, chapter three, it states that in the 15th year of the reign of Caesar Tiberius, Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and began his ministry. It is well established that the reign of Caesar Tiberius (The Encyclopedia Britannica, 1990, Micropedia) began with his coronation on August 19th in the year A.D. 14.
- ▶ Most scholars believe Jesus was baptized in the fall season. It therefore follows that the ministry of Jesus began with his baptism in the Fall of A.D. 28, the 15th year of the reign of Caesar Tiberius (the day a Roman ruler ascends the throne begins his first year). The ministry of Jesus spanned four Passovers, or about three and one-half years.
- ▶ The first Passover of Jesus' ministry would have been in the Spring of A.D. 29. The fourth Passover of His ministry was the day of his crucifixion and would have fallen in the year A.D. 32. The Passover in that year fell on April 10th (The Passover holiday always occurs on the 14th day of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar.
- ▶ This corresponds to the first full moon after the Spring equinox.). Remarkably, according to Robert Anderson and the British Royal Observatory, the Sunday before that Passover was April 6th-The very day that Jesus presents himself as King and exactly 173,880 days after the decree of Artaxerxes!!

**Luke 19:41** When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, **42** saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. **43** For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, **44** and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation." (NASB)

- Israel was judged for missing what they should have \_\_\_\_\_.
- ▶ Do we think it will be different for us?

### **RETURN** Of Jesus

- How important is it?
  - 2nd most frequently mentioned topic in the Bible (to salvation)

- 318 times in the New Testament
- 23 of 27 Books in the New Testament
- 1 out of every 30 verses in the New Testament
- 2nd most written about thing from the early church (1st - 3rd century)
- If God, who is perfect in wisdom, gives this much attention to this issue, what should be the fruit of the Church reading, studying, and meditating on this topic?
  - Passion for the lost and urgency for the Kingdom of God.
    - ▶ Live like Jesus is coming any moment.
    - ▶ Plan like Jesus is coming in 100 years.

**Israel's \_\_\_\_\_, Our \_\_\_\_\_**

- Israel is under judgment until they repent
  - Jesus was here, will return when they repent.

**Leviticus 26:40** "But at last my people will confess their sins and the sins of their ancestors for betraying me and being hostile toward me. **41** When I have turned their hostility back on them and brought them to the land of their enemies, then at last their stubborn hearts will be humbled, and they will pay for their sins. **42** Then I will remember my covenant with Jacob and my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land. (NLT)

**Daniel 9:25** Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler—the Anointed One—comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times. **26** "After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end. **27** The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him."(NLT)

**What Are The \_\_\_\_\_ For Christ's Return?**

- The Imminent Return of Christ
  - Ready to take place; nothing left on God's agenda
  - Prophecy has been fulfilled; it's the next item, soon.
  - Reunification of Israel
    - ▶ April 14, 1948 - Reformation of the Jewish State
    - ▶ Most people lose their national identity, customs, culture (1800 years)

**Luke 21:29** He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees.

**30** When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is

near. **31** Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near." (NASB)

- After WW1 - Ottoman Empire was destroyed, and nations started forming
  - ▶ 1948: Israel - \_\_\_\_\_ tree
  - ▶ 1932: Saudi Arabia - \_\_\_\_\_ tree
  - ▶ 1943: Lebanon - \_\_\_\_\_ tree
  - ▶ 1943: Syria - \_\_\_\_\_ tree
  - ▶ 1946: Jordan - \_\_\_\_\_ tree

**Mark 13:28** "Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near. **29** In the same way, when you see all these things taking place, you can know that his return is very near, right at the door. **30** I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene before all these things take place. **31** Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear. **32** "However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. **33** And since you don't know when that time will come, be on guard! Stay alert!" (NLT)

- Generation in the Bible is either 40, 80, or 120 years
  - ▶ It has been 77 years since Israel became a Nation.
  - ▶ We don't know the day or hour - we know the season.

**James 5:7** Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. **8** You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near. (NLT)

- ▶ Harvest is ripe, workers are few (Matthew 9:37-38)
- ▶ Israel knew the timeframe and was held accountable
- ▶ We are also given a timeframe and will be held accountable
- He is coming soon (Next on God's agenda)

**Philippians 4:5** Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. (NLT)

**1 Peter 4:7** The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. (NLT)

**Revelation 3:11** I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown. (NLT)

**Revelation 22:7** "Look, I am coming soon! Blessed are those who obey the words of prophecy written in this book." ... **12** "Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds. ... **20** He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon!" Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! (NLT)

**2 Peter 3:9** The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. (NLT)

**Matthew 24:3** Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives. His disciples came to him privately and said, "Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?" **4** Jesus told them, "Don't let anyone mislead you, **5** for many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah.' They will deceive many. **6** And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. **7** Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. **8** But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come. **9** "Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers. **10** And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other. **11** And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. **12** Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. **13** But the one who endures to the end will be saved. **14** And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come. (NLT)

- The Rapture of the Church

**1 Thessalonians 4:15** We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. **16** For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. **17** Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. **18** So encourage each other with these words. (NLT)

**Revelation 14:14** Then I saw a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was someone like the Son of Man. He had a gold crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

**15** Then another angel came from the Temple and shouted to the one sitting on the cloud, "Swing the sickle, for the time of harvest has come; the crop on earth is ripe."

**16** So the one sitting on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the whole earth was harvested. (NLT)

**Matthew 13:24** Here is another story Jesus told: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. **25** But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. **26** When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew. **27** "The farmer's workers went to him and said, 'Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?' **28** "'An enemy has done this!' the farmer exclaimed. "'Should we pull out the weeds?' they asked. **29** "'No,' he replied, 'you'll uproot the wheat if you do. **30** Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.'" (NLT)

**Matthew 13:36** Then, leaving the crowds outside, Jesus went into the house. His disciples said, "Please explain to us the story of the weeds in the field." **37** Jesus replied, "The Son of Man is the farmer who plants the good seed. **38** The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one. **39** The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels. **40** "Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. **41** The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. **42** And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **43** Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!" (NLT)

**Matthew 24:32** "Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near. **33** In the same way, when you see all these things, you can know his return is very near, right at the door. **34** I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene until all these things take place. **35** Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear. **36** "However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. **37** "When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. **38** In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. **39** People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes. **40** "Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. **41** Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the

other left. **42** "So you, too, must keep watch! For you don't know what day your Lord is coming. **43** Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. **44** You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected. **45** "A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. **46** If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. **47** I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. **48** But what if the servant is evil and thinks, 'My master won't be back for a while,' **49** and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? **50** The master will return unannounced and unexpected, **51** and he will cut the servant to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (NLT)

- The Rise of the Antichrist (False Christ).

**2 Thessalonians 2:1** Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him.

**2** Don't be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don't believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us. **3** Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. **4** He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God. **5** Don't you remember that I told you about all this when I was with you? **6** And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes. **7** For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way. **8** Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming. **9** This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. **10** He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them. **11** So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies. **12** Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth. (NLT)

- The Repentance of Israel

**Matthew 23:37** "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me. **38** And now,

look, your house is abandoned and desolate. **39** For I tell you this, you will never see me again until you say, 'Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!'" (NLT)

- The Second Coming of Jesus

**Matthew 24:15** "The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place." (Reader, pay attention!) **16** "Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. **17** A person out on the deck of a roof must not go down into the house to pack. **18** A person out in the field must not return even to get a coat. **19** How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. **20** And pray that your flight will not be in winter or on the Sabbath. **21** For there will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again. **22** In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive. But it will be shortened for the sake of God's chosen ones. **23** "Then if anyone tells you, 'Look, here is the Messiah,' or 'There he is,' don't believe it. **24** For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God's chosen ones. **25** See, I have warned you about this ahead of time. **26** "So if someone tells you, 'Look, the Messiah is out in the desert,' don't bother to go and look. Or, 'Look, he is hiding here,' don't believe it! **27** For as the lightning flashes in the east and shines to the west, so it will be when the Son of Man comes. **28** Just as the gathering of vultures shows there is a carcass nearby, so these signs indicate that the end is near. **29** "Immediately after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. **30** And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. **31** And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven." (NLT)

- The Defeat of Evil

**Revelation 14:17** After that, another angel came from the Temple in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle. **18** Then another angel, who had power to destroy with fire, came from the altar. He shouted to the angel with the sharp sickle, "Swing your sickle now to gather the clusters of grapes from the vines of the earth, for they are ripe for judgment." **19** So the angel swung his sickle over the earth and loaded the grapes into the great winepress of God's wrath. **20** The grapes were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress in a stream about 180 miles long and as high as a horse's bridle. (NLT)

**Isaiah 63:2** Why are your clothes so red, as if you have been treading out grapes?  
**3** "I have been treading the winepress alone; no one was there to help me. In my anger I have trampled my enemies as if they were grapes. In my fury I have trampled my foes. Their blood has stained my clothes. **4** For the time has come for me to avenge my people, to ransom them from their oppressors. **5** I was amazed to see that no one intervened to help the oppressed. So I myself stepped in to save them with my strong arm, and my wrath sustained me. **6** I crushed the nations in my anger and made them stagger and fall to the ground, spilling their blood upon the earth." (NLT)

**Why A \_\_\_\_\_?**

- A winepress crushes grapes so their juice flows.
  - In the ancient world, a winepress was a stone vat where grapes were thrown and crushed underfoot.
  - The juice ran out below, leaving skins and stems behind—nothing escaped the trampling.
  - Scripture uses that familiar image to picture God's total, unrelenting judgment on unrepentant evil.
- Here, the idea is whole, unstoppable judgment.
  - By placing Christ in the winepress, the text affirms His deity and active role in executing the Almighty's justice.
    - ▶ The word "ripe" means "over-ready," meaning the time is overdue.

**Joel 3:13** Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread the grapes, for the winepress is full. The storage vats are overflowing with the wickedness of these people." (NLT)

- The "fury of the wrath" highlights that judgment is not arbitrary but a holy response to persistent rebellion.

**Romans 2:5** But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. (NLT)

**Nahum 1:2** The Lord is a jealous God, filled with vengeance and rage. He takes revenge on all who oppose him and continues to rage against his enemies! **3** The Lord is slow to get angry, but his power is great, and he never lets the guilty go unpunished. He displays his power in the whirlwind and the storm. The billowing clouds are the dust beneath his feet. (NLT)

- Treading the Winepress of God's Wrath

- ▶ Isaiah 63:1-6 depicts the Messiah alone trampling the winepress, garments stained with blood—fulfilled here.
- ▶ He is actively dealing with evil.
- Revelation 14:19-20 shows the grape harvest of judgment; chapter 19 reveals the One who presses it.
- The image underscores righteous anger fully expressed—no injustice overlooked, no rebellion tolerated.
- Key Ideas Wrapped in the Image
  - Personal involvement
    - ▶ “He treads” shows Christ Himself executing judgment—no proxy, no distance.
  - Complete destruction of wickedness
    - ▶ Just as every grape is crushed, every act of rebellion is dealt with.
  - Overflowing consequences
    - ▶ Revelation 14:19-20 pictures blood rising “as high as the bridles of the horses,” stressing the magnitude of judgment.
  - Righteous anger, not reckless rage
    - ▶ It is “the furious wrath of God the Almighty,” meaning wrath that is holy, deserved, and measured by divine justice.

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- For what is the horse a symbol?
  - In what way is the white horse in verse 11 different from the white horse in Revelation 6:2?
  - Who is the Word of God?
  - Where else in Revelation is the appearance of our resurrected Lord described?
  - What insights can we gain from these descriptions?
  - Who makes up the armies of heaven?
    - Who is the animal or the beast?
    - Who is the false prophet?
    - What is the lake of fire?
    - Who is in the lake of fire when the beast and the prophet are sent there?
    - How can we disprove the doctrine of annihilation from this chapter?
    - Who are the “rest” in verse 21?