



## It Is Done!

### PART 35

## Introductions

Let's get started by sharing our names and answering this question: [*Choose your own question*].

## Songs of Praise

Let's begin our time singing to the Lord. [*Sing additional songs if you prefer. Contact the church office for copies of our church songbooks.*]

## Jesus Shall Reign

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run,  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song,  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns:  
the prisoners leap to lose their chains,  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring  
the highest honors to our King,  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen.

Isaac Watts, 1719

## Church News

- Share any news for your own group at this time.

## Study

[*This guide utilizes the Sunday sermon notes, please [click this link](#) to access them.*]

Q: Would someone open us in prayer?

Q: Would someone read aloud Revelation 16:12-21?

In this passage John envisions a gathering prepared for battle which results in the subsequent defeat of the dragon and the two beasts in the judgment of God. Let's begin by looking at the sixth bowl.

Q: What happens when the sixth angel pours out his bowl?

The imagery draws us back to the drying up of the Red Sea during the exodus (Ex 14:21ff) or in the days when Cyrus diverted the water of Euphrates in order to defeat the Babylonians (Isa 44:27ff).

Q: What did God's works of judgment against Egypt or Babylon mean for God's people?

Q: Do you recall what the Dragon, Beast and False Prophet represent?<sup>1</sup>

We learned on Sunday that the works of the devil are accomplished by lies. The principal medium of the devil is deceit. Instead of words of truth that come from the Dragon's mouth, out comes

something that is so diametrically opposed to the truth that it is clearly not true: frogs. They say once you know the truth, it is much easier to spot the lie.

Q: Over the last week, what lies have you spotted that our sinful world believes is normal and even attractive?

Q: What then does Armageddon represent?<sup>2</sup>

Verse 15 includes both a warning and blessing.

Q: What does it mean that Jesus is coming like a thief, and how does that settle with you? Explain.

Q: Why is the second part of verse 15 a blessing?

Q: Can someone read aloud Revelation 7:13-14 to remind us of what it means to be dressed for the coming of the Lord?

Q: What happens in the pouring of the seventh bowl by the angel? In other words, what are those things that come to their end?<sup>3</sup>

Q: How do you respond to this imagery of the final bowl of God's wrath as described this way?

This imagery reminds us that the world rages against God by empires who thrive by spectacle: parades, weapons, intimidation, even crucifixions lining the roads. Yet the Lord subverts that spectacle. John's vision stages what looks like the ultimate military showdown and then refuses to narrate it as a conventional war.

Q: Why is the imagery not a conventional war?<sup>4</sup>

Q: Why is this the truth of God's word important for how Christians are to battle in this life? [Consider reading aloud 2 Corinthians 10:3-5]

Q: Are there any spiritual battles that you would like us to know about and pray for you?

## Notes...

<sup>1</sup> They collectively represent Satan as a parody or imitation of the Triune God: the Dragon (false worship), the beast (corruption of human government), and the false prophet (deceitful religious propaganda).

<sup>2</sup> Robert Mounce said "Geography is not the major concern. Wherever it takes place, Armageddon [Hebrew for *Mount Megiddo*] is symbolic of the final overthrow of all the forces of evil by the might and power of God. The great conflict between God and Satan, Christ and Antichrist, good and evil, that lies behind the perplexing course of history will in the end issue in a final struggle in which God will emerge victorious and take with him all who have placed their faith in him" (*The Book of Revelation*, 302).

<sup>3</sup> 1. The end of corrupted government (Babylon falls). 2. The end of corrupted cities 3. The end of the first creation (symbolized by the passing of the mountains and islands).

<sup>4</sup> God does not win by an armed conflict. The point is that the beast's power is hollow before the Lamb who was slain. God's power through the crucified and risen Christ brings to nothing the principalities and powers of this evil age.

## Prayer

[Take time to pray - men with men, and women with women.]