

Second Sunday in Lent
February 24, 2013
Rev. 19:11-16

In Christ Jesus, the exalted King of kings and Lord of lords, Dear Fellow Redeemed,

In Jesus' trial before Pontius Pilate one of the charges that the Jews brought against Jesus was that He claimed to be the Christ, the Messiah, the KING of Israel. According to the Jews, claiming to be the Messiah was blasphemy and carried with it the punishment of death. According to the Romans, being a King made Jesus an enemy of Caesar, the Roman Emperor, and in their eyes made Jesus guilty of treason, punishable also by death.

When Pontius Pilate questioned Jesus concerning these charges Jesus clearly acknowledged that He was a **KING**, but explained what kind of king. He was not the kind of earthly king the Jews and the Romans supposed. He was a spiritual King, One who rules in the hearts of His people and One who will rule forever in His heavenly Kingdom. Jesus said to Pilate, **MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD. IF MY KINGDOM WERE OF THIS WORLD, MY SERVANTS WOULD FIGHT, SO THAT I SHOULD NOT BE DELIVERED TO THE JEWS; BUT NOW MY KINGDOM IS NOT FROM HERE.**

When we read our Savior's Passion History, Jesus looks like anything but a king. He has no army protecting Him, only a handful of disciples. He is easily arrested with only one incident (that of Peter striking out with his sword). He does not retaliate when struck or mocked or whipped. When He is nailed to the cross, no one raised a hand to defend or rescue Him.

But as we heard last Sunday, this all happened so that the **GREAT DRAGON, SATAN** would be conquered. Jesus as King suffered and died in order to win the war.

Last week we heard from Rev. 12 how Jesus in His humiliation, through the shedding of His blood, destroyed the Great Dragon's power over mankind. This morning from Rev. 19 we hear about our Savior's exaltation as Ascended King.

On Palm Sunday Jesus rode into Jerusalem as a lowly, humble King riding on a donkey. He was a King who would be sacrificed as the Lamb of God for all sinners.

In our text John sees heaven open and sees the exalted, mighty King Jesus riding upon a white horse, a King triumphant bringing Judgment upon mankind.

And that's our theme and first point this morning:

**JESUS, THE TRUE AND FAITHFUL KING:
I: IN RIGHTEOUSNESS JUDGES ALL NATIONS.**

It is important to note that this judgment is a **RIGHTEOUS** judgment. A **RIGHT, PROPER** judgment. Over the years we have had some jury verdicts that have seemed very unjust: Casey Anthony and O.J. Simpson to name two. The evildoers go free and unpunished. We even see injustice in our laws. What kind of justice is it for those who kill babies to be protected while those who picket too close to the abortion clinics get thrown into jail?

In Romans 1 the apostle Paul lists some of the wicked deeds of those who have exchanged the truth and justice of God for the lie: **THEIR WOMEN EXCHANGED THE NATURAL USE FOR WHAT IS AGAINST NATURE...ALSO THE MEN, LEAVING THE NATURAL USE OF THE WOMEN, BURNED IN THEIR LUST FOR ONE ANOTHER, MEN WITH MEN COMMITTING WHAT IS SHAMEFUL,...GOD GAVE THEM OVER TO A DEBASED MIND, TO DO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE NOT FITTING; FILLED WITH ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, SEXUAL IMMORALITY, WICKEDNESS, COVETOUSNESS, MALICIOUSNESS, FULL OF ENVY, MURDER, STRIFE, DECEIT,...BACKBITERS, HATERS OF GOD, VIOLENT, PROUD, BOASTERS, INVENTORS OF EVIL THINGS, DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS, UNTRUSTWORTHY, UNLOVING, UNFORGIVING, UNMERCIFUL; WHO KNOWING THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF GOD, THAT THOSE WHO PRACTICE SUCH THINGS ARE WORTHY OF DEATH, NOT ONLY DO THE SAME BUT ALSO APPROVE OF THOSE WHO PRACTICE THEM.**

In Chapter 2 Paul writes this about God's judgment. **BUT WE KNOW THAT THE**

JUDGMENT OF GOD IS ACCORDING TO TRUTH AGAINST THOSE WHO PRACTICE SUCH THINGS. AND DO YOU THINK THIS, O MAN, YOU WHO JUDGE THOSE PRACTICING SUCH THINGS, AND DOING THE SAME, THAT YOU WILL ESCAPE THE JUDGMENT OF GOD? OR DO YOU DESPISE THE RICHES OF HIS GOODNESS, FORBEARANCE, AND LONGSUFFERING, NOT KNOWING THAT THE GOODNESS OF GOD LEADS YOU TO REPENTANCE? BUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR HARDNESS AND YOUR IMPENITENT HEART YOU ARE TREASURING UP FOR YOURSELF WRATH IN THE DAY OF WRATH AND REVELATION OF THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF GOD.

Paul also spoke of this righteous judgment of God when he spoke to the people of Athens and said, **HE HAS APPOINTED A DAY ON WHICH HE WILL JUDGE THE WORLD IN RIGHTEOUSNESS BY THE MAN WHOM HE HAS ORDAINED. HE HAS GIVEN ASSURANCE OF THIS TO ALL BY RAISING HIM FROM THE DEAD.**

Even as we are assured that Jesus Christ rose bodily from the grave Easter morning so are we assured that on the Last Day Jesus Christ will **JUDGE ALL NATIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

Our text is very descriptive. Remember that in Revelation God reveals things to John in signs and symbols so we see a very different looking Jesus from when He walked on this earth. John saw Jesus with **EYES LIKE A FLAME OF FIRE.** This refers to Jesus' omniscience---eyes that are all penetrating, burn through the outward shell of a person and see inside to the heart. That is why Christ's judgment is **RIGHT** and **PROPER.** He doesn't judge by outward actions or appearances, but by the heart.

That is why there may be hypocrites in earthly Christian churches, but no hypocrites in the Holy Christian Church and none in heaven. For **GOD KNOWS THEM THAT ARE HIS!** Jesus knows what is in man and He sees the secrets of man's heart. He sees directly into our hearts. Because He is faithful and true, all His judgments must be **TRUE** and **RIGHT.** No one will stand before Him on Judgment Day and enter heaven without His shed blood covering them with a repentant, saving faith in Him as their Lord and Savior.

Secondly we see from our text that Jesus,

THE TRUE AND FAITHFUL KING:

II: WILL STRIKE DOWN THE NATIONS WITH HIS WORD.

In verse 13 we read, **AND HIS NAME IS CALLED THE WORD OF GOD.** In His Gospel John also wrote these words about Jesus, **IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD** and then in vs. 14 John through inspiration wrote, **AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US, AND WE BEHELD HIS GLORY, THE GLORY AS OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.**

In this vision John sees a sharp sword coming out of Christ's mouth. This vision takes us back to Revelation 1 where John saw Christ with a sharp double edged sword coming out of His mouth. What does this symbolize? Remember, Scripture interprets Scripture. We read in Hebrews 4:12, **FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS LIVING AND POWERFUL, AND SHARPER THAN ANY TWO-EDGED SWORD, PIERCING EVEN TO THE DIVISION OF SOUL AND SPIRIT, AND OF JOINTS AND MARROW, AND IS A DISCERNER OF THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTS OF THE HEART.**

The two-edged sword is a picture of the **WORD** in its use both as **LAW** and **GOSPEL.** But here we see a simple sharp sword. This sword does not represent the preaching of the Gospel message of salvation, but rather the judgment upon mankind expressed in God's Law. **HE WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE IS CONDEMNED!** It is with the **JUDGMENT of GOD'S LAW** that Christ will strike down the unbelieving people of this world.

We read again the first part of verse 13 and 15, **HE WAS CLOTHED WITH A ROBE DIPPED IN BLOOD...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.**

Jesus is pictured here as the King who rules with His Law upon the lawless, the disobedient, the unbeliever, upon those who throughout their lives lived as they chose, as they willed. His **ROBE IS DIPPED WITH BLOOD**. This is not a reference to the blood of Christ shed on the cross for mankind. This is the blood of His enemies when He Himself treads the winepress and in His wrath judged proud, rebellious mankind as one squashes grapes with their feet. This same picture was given many years ago in Isaiah 63:1-6: **WHO IS THIS WHO COMES FROM EDOM, WITH DYED GARMENTS FROM BOZRAH, THIS ONE WHO IS GLORIOUS IN HIS APPAREL, TRAVELING IN THE GREATNESS OF HIS STRENGTH? -- "I WHO SPEAK IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, MIGHTY TO SAVE." WHY IS YOUR APPAREL RED, AND YOUR GARMENTS LIKE ONE WHO TREADS IN THE WINEPRESS? "I HAVE TRODDEN THE WINEPRESS ALONE, AND FROM THE PEOPLES NO ONE WAS WITH ME. FOR I HAVE TRODDEN THEM IN MY ANGER, AND TRAMPLED THEM IN MY FURY; THEIR BLOOD IS SPRINKLED UPON MY GARMENTS, AND I HAVE STAINED ALL MY ROBES. FOR THE DAY OF VENGEANCE IS IN MY HEART, AND THE YEAR OF MY REDEEMED HAS COME. I LOOKED, BUT *THERE* WAS NO ONE TO HELP, AND I WONDERED THAT *THERE* WAS NO ONE TO UPHOLD; THEREFORE MY OWN ARM BROUGHT SALVATION FOR ME; AND MY OWN FURY, IT SUSTAINED ME. I HAVE TRODDEN DOWN THE PEOPLES IN MY ANGER, MADE THEM DRUNK IN MY FURY, AND BROUGHT DOWN THEIR STRENGTH TO THE EARTH."**

Together with our Savior on that Last and Glorious Day of Judgment will be the angels of heaven. We read in verse 14, **AND THE ARMIES IN HEAVEN, CLOTHED IN FINE LINEN, WHITE AND CLEAN, FOLLOWED HIM ON WHITE HORSES.**

So, what does all of this mean for us? It means that the same Savior we are seeing with eyes of faith during this Lenten season be led humbly, cruelly, meekly to the cross to endure man's unjust verdict and the wrath and damnation of His Father for us; who appeared defeated when He died on Good Friday is the same Savior who will come with a loud shout and the trumpet of God to **JUDGE** all of mankind. The same Savior who even now is ruling all things according to His will for the benefit and welfare of His children. He was not just a King, as our text says He was and is:

III: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

We also read in verse 12 **ON HIS HEAD WERE MANY CROWNS**. In Chapter 6 we were introduced to this Rider on the white horse, but there He had only one crown. For there the Savior was just beginning His victorious Gospel march through history. He as King has conquered Satan, sin and death and has captured the hearts and minds of peoples of possibly every nation under heaven, so that now He wears many crowns. The kings and lords of this world, who acknowledge Jesus as their Lord and Savior, gladly cast their crowns at His feet. Those who are His enemies and fight against Him will be forced to surrender their crowns to Him at their judgment.

In His first coming, the lowly King, Jesus, came to display God's gracious love toward all of mankind and redeem all people with His shed blood. But at His second coming the exalted King, Jesus, will come to reveal God's wrath and anger upon those who rejected His love and spurned His sacrifice. In Phil. 2 we are told **AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, OF THOSE IN HEAVEN, AND OF THOSE ON EARTH, AND OF THOSE UNDER THE EARTH, AND THAT EVERY TONGUE CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.**

What a glorious **REDEMPTION** our King has earned for us. If we believe that, then when He comes again we will have nothing to fear for our King has prepared for us a **GLORIOUS KINGDOM of EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS** where we shall **ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME FOREVER AND EVER.**

Amen.