

Message Three

The Army

Scripture Reading: Rev. 19:11-16, 19-21

I. Spiritual warfare is necessary because Satan's will is set against God's will—Matt. 6:10; 7:21; Isa. 14:12-14:

- A. If we would know how the church can be God's warrior to engage in spiritual warfare, we need to realize that in the universe there are three wills—the divine will, the satanic will, and the human will:
 - 1. Spiritual warfare has its source in the conflict between the divine will and the satanic will.
 - 2. As the church, our fighting is to subdue the satanic will and to defeat God's enemy—Rev. 12:11.
- B. The purpose of spiritual warfare is to bring in the kingdom of God—Rev. 12:10:
 - 1. Spiritual warfare is the warfare between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan—Matt. 12:26, 28.
 - 2. The kingdom of God is the exercise of the divine will and the overthrowing of the power of Satan by the power of God—6:10; 12:28.
 - 3. The work of the church on earth is to bring in the kingdom of God—Matt. 16:18-19.

II. According to Revelation 19:11-21 Christ will come as a fighting General with His bride, the overcoming believers who are His army, to fight Antichrist, the kings under him, and their armies at Armageddon:

- A. Under the instigation of Antichrist, man will wage war against the King of kings and the Lord of lords —v. 16:
 - 1. Christ is God coming to fight against rebellious mankind, and mankind is represented by a man who is one with Satan—Antichrist—v. 19.
 - 2. These two parties—Christ and Antichrist—will fight; man will fight against God directly.
- B. When Christ comes with His army to fight against Antichrist and his armies, He will come as the Son of Man—Matt. 26:64; Rev. 14:14:
 - 1. As the Son of Man He will need a counterpart to match and complete Him; this counterpart will be His bride—John 3:29a.
 - 2. Before His coming back, Christ will have a wedding, uniting His overcomers to Himself as one entity—Rev. 19:7-9:
 - a. Christ will marry the one who has been fighting the battle against God's enemy for years.
 - b. In Revelation 19 Christ will marry the overcomers, who have already overcome the evil one.
 - 3. After His wedding Christ will come with His bride to destroy Antichrist.
 - 4. The wedding garment—Christ lived out of us as our daily righteousness—qualifies us not only to attend the wedding but also to join in the army to fight with Christ against Antichrist in the ultimate war—the war at Armageddon—Matt. 22:11-12; Rev. 19:7-8, 14.