God Always Wins: Pictures of Victory in Revelation (Part 2)

Zanesville, OH | May 20, 2018 | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** Rev. 17:14

**Intro**:

* There are always two possible outcomes. In the scriptures, the reality of such things is no different. You are either on God’s side and you aren’t. However, one thing is significantly noticeable about God’s character in the scriptures. There are no two possible outcomes when it comes to His actions and His power. Only one! **God always wins** regardless of whatever circumstances. He cannot lose. There is simply no room for the definition of defeat when it comes to God!

**Pictures of Victory in Revelation**

1. **Victory at Har-Magedon (Armageddon): Rev. 16:13-21; 19:17-21**
   * This particular section in Revelation is one of the most frequently referred to passages when speaking of the “The apocalypse– End of the world.” The word itself may mean the hill of Megiddo or city of Megiddo. It is a place that is associated with several brutal battles in the Old Testament that were not soon forgotten (Judg. 5:19– Deborah’s Song of victory over Sisera; 2 Kings 9:27– Ahaziah died; 2 Kings 23:29– Josiah was killed). The enemies of God (Kings of earth) gather together for a battle that never happens. God wins before they can even begin to fight!
2. **Victory for the saints and doom for worshippers of the Beast: Rev. 13-14 (13:1-4, 8, 12, 14, 16-17; 14:1, 4-11, 14-20)**
   * The dragon gives authority to this sea beast and something out of the ordinary happens. The dragon (the devil) is making a deliberate effort to offer an alternative to the Lamb (Rev. 5) using the same language that is employed in chapter 5. All the earth worships the beast. Satan’s tactics have worked to perfection so far. The lamb is once again presented in chapter 14 with the faithful. Those who worship the beast come to destruction and devastation (14:8-11). The saints are gathered in (14:14-16) by Him who sits on the cloud. The worshippers of the beast in chapter 13 are violently judged and their doom is executed (vv.17-20). Satan tried his best, but God once again wins with ease and those who follow the lamb are saved!
3. **Jesus’ victory over death: Rev: 1:5, 17-18; 5:6, 9, 12**
   * The most striking and most pertinent picture of victory of God in Revelation, is Jesus’ victory over death. As Paul put it in 1 Cor 15:17: *“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.”* But Jesus has overcome death. That story is told more in detail in the gospel accounts and in Acts. John doesn’t take much away from the reader in Revelation when he says, *“He was dead but now He is alive forevermore.”* And that’s important. Many people were raised from the dead before Jesus, but they would undoubtedly die again. They did not rise to live forever. Jesus is the firstborn of the dead. In chapter 5, He is pictured as the slain lamb who is worthy. He is worthy because He died for the sins of all. God took a situation of murder, shame and demise and turned it into one of glory, honor and power. He was victorious even at the cross!

**The End Results**

1. **God is revered and glorified: Rev. 15:3-4; 5:13**
   * In the midst of great conquering and triumph over the wicked, God is magnified and lauded for who He is and what He does. The result is that all must bow before Him and give Him glory. Even those who choose not to in this present time, will one day bow before Him.
2. **Jesus died so all might have the opportunity to be saved: Rev. 1:5-6; 5:9-10**
   * The point that the book stresses very early on and much throughout the course of its message, is Jesus died for all men. He died, rose and is alive so that even the wicked who Hate Him could live. His death was a selfless act leading to eternal glory.
3. **Faithful followers of the lamb will be saved; Enemies will come to perdition: Rev. 14:14-20; Matt. 3:12; 13:36-43**
   * Two possible outcomes. This doesn’t involve God’s personality, remember. He will always win! There is only one course of action with God. The two possible outcomes are those we observe 14:14-20. The two reapings. Either we serve God and remain faithful and true till we die, or we experience the violent threshing of His judgment.