

ツァーベルシュタイン・キリスト者の集い 2016 年

7月31日、M.マイヤー説教の要約

み国の実現 黙示録 19:11-16

The visual realization of the Kingdom of God Revelations 19:11-16

アウトライン Outline

イントロ Introduction

- M.マイヤーの自己紹介。Short self-introduction of M. Meyer.
- 今日でも、主イエス・キリストの再臨を待つことのチャレンジ。What it means today to await the coming-again of the Lord Jesus Christ.

本論 Main Part

1. 栄光の主が来られる。黙 19 章にある、イエスの 4 つの名前。Jesus' coming as the Lord of Glory: The four names of Jesus in Rev.19.
2. すべての支配者と裁き主が来られる。Jesus' coming as Lord of Almighty and Judge.
3. キリストの教会の待望と栄光。The waiting and the glorified Church.

結論 Conclusion

信仰者として生きることは、この世が良くなるために努力することや、素晴らしい天国を目指して行くことよりも、もっと深く、大切な目標がある。それは、主イエス・キリスト自身との出会いです。Living a life as a believer does not mean to work for a better world, or to wait for a wonderful heaven. It means more: To be focused on Jesus Christ Himself and to look forward to meet Him personally.

English Summary

The visual realization of the Kingdom of God Revelations 19:11-16

Introduction:

Short self-introduction of Martin Meyer.

- How I came to study cultural anthropology in addition to theology:

- Being born and raised in Japan made the Japanese Culture to be a part of myself, along with the German Culture.
- After having lived in Japan as an MK for 17 years, I returned to Japan as a missionary at the age of 25.
- After leaving Japan in 1998 I started studying cultural anthropology.
- Presently, I am working among Japanese people in central Europe, partly as pastor of the Japanese Evangelical Church in Switzerland, partly as Missionary among Japanese in other parts of central Europe, mostly Germany. In addition to that I am engaged in Intercultural Consulting for European firms working in Asia.

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What it means today to await the coming-again of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Many of us are acquainted with the use of MEISHI, the business name cards that origin in Japan!

With a MEISHI you can introduce yourself and get knowledge about your partner.

In Japan, the description of the position of a person is considered very important and therefore placed above the name of the person.

In Europe, the person itself is more important than its position, and therefore the name itself is on the top.

These are cultural differences that reveal about different thinking and standards of value in different countries.

In our text of Revelations 19 we have an introduction of Jesus Christ as the coming-again Messiah with both, great names and powerful position descriptions. Just as if this part of the bible, that will affect all mankind, is written to be understood by everyone!

Though, there are great doubts and unbelieve concerning the prophecies of the Bible for the end of this world.

The bible gives a number of prophecies of Jesus coming again (i.e. Acts 1:8-11), and also foretells the doubts against that (2nd Peter 3: 4 & 9-10).

It also tells precisely about the time just before His coming, which reminds us that it is very soon (examples of signs in our time may follow).

1. Jesus coming as the Lord of Glory:

In our passage, there are four names given to Jesus, which reveal the Glory of Him. This is quite contrary to the humility and deepness He lived in when He came first as Saviour from sins.

- 1st name: Faithful and Truth. All the prophecies about Him come true with his second coming. Because He has come once, He will definitely come a second time. Our life and our belief will have a firm foundation if we trust on Him.
- 2nd name: A Name only He Himself knows: This reveals the great and NEW about His coming. Never before, never after will be an event like this. GOD starts to reveal His Kingdom by revealing the Great and only One King of His Kingdom.
- 3rd name: Word of God. Here the still hidden but present power of God's Word is given an appearance. From creation by word to salvation by word, to glorification by word and until judgement it is the word of God that works.
- 4th name: King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Visible, undoubtable. He who is still met by unbelief of many people will show His Glory.

2. Jesus coming as Lord of Reign:

Our passage in Revelations 19 even more shows seven signs of the coming Jesus. All of them are signs proving that it is Him, the One who has been here before:

- Riding on a white horse: The sign of a conqueror who comes back in victory. Roman Empire people of the time, when the revelation was written, understood this sign very well.
- Judging with justice: Justice, Righteousness is one of the very attributes of God. He will come as the Judge, and that means there will be greatest authority in Him. (Eyes like blazing fire)
- Many Crowns on His head: A human King has normally not more than one crown on his head, not so Jesus, who combines all power in Him.
- A robe dipped in blood: This proves that it is the One and Same Jesus who died on the cross. What He has been to me as Savior, He will be to me as King of Kings.

- A sharp sword out of His mouth: Not the power of muscles, nor the power of guns, tanks, rockets, but the power of His Word will be the judging power that remains after all.
- An iron scepter to rule with: In history, usually the scepters were of wood, covered maybe with some thin gold layers. His' sign of ruling will be an iron scepture, which means an undestroyable scepture. There will be no more opponents when He comes.
- Treating the winepress of God's wrath: All judgement is given to Jesus.

All these signs show nothing of the weakness, humility He had before.

What a necessity for all of us, believers and unbelievers, to submit to Him before being submitted by force.

3. What about the Church, the Followers of Jesus Christ?

If we regard the present appearance of the Church of God in this world, we see either a group of timid and mostly worldly people,

or a group of believers being persecuted,

or a group of believers struggling to be faithful,

but we can't see any glory surrounding any group of congregation, church, believers.

Nevertheless, there are movements in our time, calling themselves 'emerging church', that even want to assimilate into the society of this world. They think, God's Kingdom could be built by the wisdom and power of the church and the believers, in a visible way.

But the Bible does not teach the Kingdom of God to be built, but to come!

The weak appearance mentioned above is the way for the church in the time before His coming. It is the way of belief, the way of trust in the Lord, the way of keeping hope alive and waiting for the sudden rapture to His world.

The rapture is the very next thing promised to occur in this our last time.

In our passage, the glorified church is coming together with the King of Kings back to this world, after having been raptured to His presence before.

4. Conclusion

Being prepared to meet Jesus Christ personally is the big challenge of our belief in this time.

- And there is one powerful and essential means of preparation: Clinging to His Word and staying connected to Him by reading, eating His word daily!
- And it is also necessary to look to the signs of time, especially to the events in and around Israel. Understanding the connections between Israel and all the other countries in the world, and understanding the ongoing movements of growing unifications in this world is a daily task of Christians in our time.

There will be an example story of a pastor, waiting together with a big crowd at the roadside to see the King of Sweden, expected to come along. Suddenly the crowd runs in a certain direction. He joins the crowd in expectation of seeing the King somewhere else. But what he sees, is an actress, getting off a limousine, not even being known to him. Rushing back to the old place he realizes that the King has gone already.

What a necessity to stay focused on the Lord Jesus Christ, whom we cannot see but still love and await His coming!