

Today begins the Advent season of the Church, i.e., the four weeks of spiritual preparation for Christmas. The word “advent” comes from the Latin, *adventus*, which means “appearance” or “coming.” Most often, we celebrate Advent by looking back to the 1st Advent, i.e., the miracle of the incarnation, whereas the eternal and all-powerful, all-knowing, all-everywhere Son of God and God the Son “enfleshed” himself in a human body. And he did so, in the humblest way possible; as a defenseless and dependent infant-child of lowly peasant parents.

Advent To Armageddon

To keep with our yearlong “Major Topics of the Bible-End Times” series, let us focus on the 2nd Advent of Jesus more so than the first. In his vision of the end, John of the Apocalypse gives us a glimpse of just how different Jesus will be in his 2nd Advent than he was in his first. Listen to Revelation 19:11-16:

11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses, and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

John sees Jesus Christ milliseconds before the 2nd Advent. Try to picture in your imagination Jesus with:

Eyes like blazing fire. Wearing multiple crowns. Making war. Wearing a blood-soaked robe. Leading heavenly armies. Sword coming from his mouth. Striking down nations. Ruling with an iron scepter. Treading the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God.

Pretty awesome and awful sight and far removed from the “babe wrapped in swaddling clothing.” Although we prefer the non-threatening newborn infant lying in the manger, that’s not him anymore. There is no “baby Jesus” any longer and there will be nothing remotely humble when he returns as a Cosmic Conqueror. Who will be the conquered? To find out let’s go back to the Genesis 3:15. Listen to what God tells the Satan/Serpent after he deceived Adam and Eve into sin:

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

This Means War

This passage is called the “1st Promise of the Gospel,” but it is also a declaration of war. The preemptive “heel strike” which occurs millennia later, is the devil-inspired crucifixion of Jesus. The head crusher is Jesus, and his method for bashing in the Serpent’s head is his resurrection.

Similar words for “enmity” are acrimony, hostility, strife, hatred, and warfare. History is the arena of enmity between the “offsprings. The last battle, which we will review in a minute, is a war between the “offsprings” as Revelation 12:17 tells us:

Then the dragon (Satan) was enraged at the woman (Church) and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

The woman in this passage is Eve. She represents all life-bearing XX chromosomes of history. Ultimately, her offspring is Jesus, but the immediate reference speaks of Abel and Seth, her second-born and third-born sons. They represent the good or godly seed of humanity and are called “the children of God.” People like Noah, Enoch, Abraham, David, and of course Jesus, were members of the Seth-line because their attitude and behavior were consistently Seth-like.

On the other hand, the devil's offspring are represented in the person of Cain, Eve's firstborn. If you recall, Cain is the first murder-liar in history. After a worship dispute with God, he, in a jealous rage, murdered his brother Abel. In so doing, he became the first human to aid and abet the Serpent's mission “to rob, kill, and destroy” (John 10:10). Those who derive from the ungodly lineage of Cain, like Lamech and Tubal-Cain are “serpent-like” and are called the “children of men.”

Spiritual Genetics

Jesus, of course, was cognizant of the historical enmity between the Seth and Cain lines when he said his mission was to “Give life, and life to the full” (John 10:10) and when he promised to “build his church” in such a way “The gates of hell could never defeat it” (Matthew 16:18). He was also quick to identify which spiritual genetics one possessed. In his parable of the “Seeds,” Jesus said the “Good seeds are the children of the Kingdom” while the “weeds are children of the evil one” (Matthew 13:38). For those who rejected him and tried to kill him, Jesus said (John 8:44-45)

44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!

According to Jesus, people that reject him have the devil as their spiritual father! But those who love and trust him have God as their Father. Listen to v47:

*He who belongs to God hears what God says.
The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.*

Armageddon

The enmity/warfare between the offspring will reach its climax during Jesus' 2nd Advent in a final war called Armageddon. We read about it only in Revelation 16:14,16

14 They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty...16 Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

During the final stages of the Great Tribulation, when the 6th Bowl is poured out (as we saw two weeks ago) demonic/deceiving spirits are released to persuade the most powerful leaders on earth to oppose

Jesus' Church in a winner take all deathmatch. Scholar William Hendriksen summarizes Armageddon as a time when:

The world, under the leadership of Satan, anti-Christian government, and anti-Christian religion, a.k.a., dragon, beast, and false prophet – is gathered against the Church for the final battle.

At the very last second, however, when it looks as though Cain's progeny prevails over Seth's, Jesus returns in the 2nd Advent. Paul, in 2 Thessalonians 2:8, states what happens then:

*The Lord Jesus will overthrow [Antichrist] with the breath of his mouth
and destroy by the splendor of his coming.*

Jesus' 2nd Coming will be a Blitzkrieg, a total Shock & Awe annihilation of all forces aligned in enmity towards God and his church. With one tiny exhale, the rivalry becomes a rout from which the devil and his offspring are doomed forever!

Conclusion: Win

Want to win the "Big One?" Want to win forever? Want to win so much you get tired of winning? Want to be on the right side of history AND eternity? All you got to do is get the right spiritual genetics. We can't change our physical DNA, but we can our spiritual DNA from that of Cain to Seth. Believe in Jesus and become his offspring today.