

Redemption Church of Bristol
Revelation 19:11-21:8 - Worksheet

What are our allusions and references?

- Come out ye birds and Gog & Magog
 - Ezek 38-39 portrays a battle after the restoration of Israel against [Gog & Magog](#), who represent cosmic armies of chaos.
- The Millenium
 - 1000 is a cubic number, which represents the Holy of Holies or the presence of God. The Millenium likely represents the time in which those who die with Christ reign with Christ before the completion of all things. This is true for the literal martyrs as well as anyone who dies with Christ spiritually (Rom 6:11, Col 2:13).
- The Camp of God's people
 - An allusion to the marching camp of Israel in the book of Numbers.
- Fire came down from heaven and devoured [Gog & Magog].
 - A reference to both the judgment of Sodom (Gen 19) and the destruction of the Assyrian army (2 Kgs 19:35-36). The king of Assyria had claimed that no god could stand against him.
- God's dwelling place is now among the people
 - Dwelling place is the word *skene* which means tent. It is an allusion to the tabernacle, the place where God dwelled among Israel, and to the Incarnation (The word became flesh and *made his dwelling* among them - Jn 1:14).

Theological Themes:

- The Final Destruction of Evil
 - After the destruction Babylon (i.e. Rome), Christ begins destroying the cosmic forces of evil - the beast & false prophet (systems of oppression), the dragon, Gog & Magog (cosmic chaos), and finally Death itself.
- The Sword in his Mouth
 - Despite their victories, neither Christ nor the people of God ever take up arms in these passages. To the end, the victory belongs to the "lamb who was slain" and to those who die with Christ.
- The Already/Not yet
 - The new heavens and new earth are not something wholly different than what has come before, but the completion of the work God is already doing. Through Christ and the cross, we can glimpse, taste, and live into this reality now.
 - Heaven can break in now and evil can be destroyed now.

Reflection:

- Do we know that Death will die? Evil? Injustice? Sin? Can we rest in that comfort?
- Do we trust God to complete these victories even when they don't feel apparent?
- When we die with Christ, heaven breaks in now and evil is overcome. Where are you being called to empty yourself and invite the power of God in?