



REVELATION

Understanding the Apocalypse

Radical Word Bible Study

Episode 35

June 25, 2026



Rick Lancaster

REVELATION: Understanding the Apocalypse

Revelation 2026

Opening Comments

- **Check Hard Drive capacity.**
- **Switch to PowerPoint (slide 2) once timer reaches zero.**
- Welcome to episode 35 of the Radical Word Bible Study.
- I am Rick Lancaster, and we are coming to you live from our podcasting studio in Murrieta, California at Calvary Chapel French Valley.
- We have a service every Sunday @ 9:30 am.
- We are streaming this Bible Study live on Rumble, Facebook, and YouTube.
- The podcast version of this Bible Study can be found anywhere you go for podcasts.
- It is listed under Radical Word Bible Study with Rick Lancaster wherever you get your podcasts.
- If you are interested in staying up to date with what is happening at The Radical Word, click the link in the description for this video.
- Also, I publish a daily devotional that I send out by email.
- I will include a link to that as well.
- Today is Thursday, June 25, 2026.
- Let's open with a word of prayer.

● RECORD

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- Turn to **Revelation 19** as we continue a series: **REVELATION: Understanding the Apocalypse.**

Teaching

- **REVELATION: Understanding the Apocalypse**
- Today we look at one of our foundational, core beliefs of the Christian faith: the sudden, personal, visible, bodily return of Christ.
- Also referred to as the Second Coming of Christ.

- This is the main theme of Revelation.
- The revelation of Jesus Christ is fulfilled in the Second Coming.
- Jesus was born to the virgin Mary in His first coming, or first advent.
- Jesus is coming back a second time.

• At His first coming the Lord Jesus said... **John 14:2-3**

²In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

⁴And where I go you know, and the way you know.

- Each advent serves a different purpose.

• That was depicted in **Revelation 5:5-6**

⁵But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals. ⁶And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

- The elder described Jesus as the Lion of the tribe of Judah but John saw Him as the Lamb who was slain.

• The Lamb was how John the Baptist described Jesus. **John 1:29**

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

- The first time Jesus came to teach about the Kingdom of His Father God.
- In His first coming the Man Jesus, died for the sins of the whole world – to make a way for anyone who would believe to be a part of that kingdom.
- He was slain or killed in our place so that we had the opportunity to be with Him and the Father in heaven forever.
- The lamb is symbolic of sacrifice and service.
- This is the way we interact with Jesus, as the Lamb of God who takes away our sin.
- Jesus is both the Lamb and the Lion, but He will not present Himself as the Lion of the tribe of Judah until the second coming.
- In the second Coming Jesus will not come as the Lamb slain.
- He is not coming back to serve and to be a sacrifice.
- The Second Coming of Christ is to set up His Kingdom on earth.
- The lion is symbolic of power and royalty.

- It is also symbolic of strength and savagery.
 - In His first coming, Christ was gentle, humble, meek, and loving.
 - The lamb was a perfect animal to depict the first coming of Christ.
 - In His second coming Christ will unleash the full fury of God's wrath on unrepentant mankind.
 - The lion is a perfect animal to depict how Jesus will appear to those on the earth when He comes again.
 - Many people struggle with the image of Jesus as the holy judge of the world.
 - They prefer the Lamb, because the Lamb doesn't judge.
 - There is a term you see often on social media to describe people who are acting like the rules don't apply to them: entitled.
 - They act as though they get to make the rules and the rules or rights of others are not their concern.
 - God is the Almighty Creator of the Universe and everyone in it.
 - As Creator, God is sovereign over all creation.
 - God makes the rules.
 - God did create mankind with the ability to choose.
 - His desire is that we would choose to live in a relationship with Him through faith and obedience.
 - We have the ability and freedom to choose not to walk with God.
 - That is a choice with consequences.
 - Because God makes the rules, He also determines the consequences for breaking the rules.
 - Choosing to reject God's will and doing what you want is breaking the rules; it is sin.
 - Sin is not living the life God created you to live in the way He created you to live it.
 - God is very gracious and patient, so He doesn't judge us every time we make a mistake. **2 Peter 3:9**
- ⁹The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**
- As Sovereign Creator God, He has the absolute right to tell us how to live our lives.

- You might believe in your heart that you are entitled to decide how to live and what you do, and God will even let you do it, but there is a price for that.
- Because God is holy, sin must be judged.
- It would be unrighteous for God to leave sin unjudged.
- Over the last couple of teachings, we have looked at God's plan to deal with the godless infrastructure of this world – religion, government, and economy.
- He will also deal with the world's false idea of strength by dealing with the world's military – next time.
- It is time for the King of kings, and Lord of lords to take His rightful place on this earth.
- But before He sets up His kingdom, He must cleanse the world of sin.
- That's what we have in the next verse – the Second Coming.
- **Revelation 19:11**
- Twenty-three out of twenty-seven books in the New Testament refer to this event. **Matthew 24:27-30**

²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ²⁸ For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. ²⁹ "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

- The book of Revelation follows a timeline.
- The Second Coming comes at the end of the Tribulation Period.
- **[Chart: End Times Chart_Timeline]**
- It is exactly 1,260 days after the abomination that causes desolation that Daniel spoke about.
- That is when the False Prophet sets up an image of the Antichrist and requires everyone to worship it.
- Before we unpack the verses, I would like to share four points regarding the Second Coming.
- They are the Place, the People, the Purpose, and the Pattern.
- This will take a lot of our time tonight.
- The First point is the **Place**.

- Jesus is coming back to the earth.
- This is differentiated from the Rapture which takes place in the clouds.
- Immediately after Jesus ascended back to heaven, the disciples had an encounter with a couple of angels. **Acts 1:9-11**

⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

- The next verse tells us Jesus ascended from mount called Olivet, or the Mount of Olives.
 - Back in the Old Testament, Zechariah tells us that is where Jesus, the Messiah, will return to. **Zechariah 14:4**
- ⁴ And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.

- Jesus will come back to a very specific location.
- When Jesus ascended to heaven, it seems that only the disciples saw it happen.
- It will be different when He comes again.
- Before Jesus left, He warned the disciples not to be deceived by those who said He had returned.
- He was saying, when I come back, everyone on earth will know it.

Luke 17:22-24

²² Then He said to the disciples, “The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see *it*. ²³ And they will say to you, ‘Look here!’ or ‘Look there!’ Do not go after *them* or follow *them*. ²⁴ For as the lightning that flashes out of one *part* under heaven shines to the other *part* under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day.

- Somehow, the whole world will know in their mind, heart, and soul that Jesus has come.
- For God’s people who have been suffering through the Tribulation that will be joyous news.
- For those who have resolutely rejected God right up until Jesus steps down on the Mount of Olives, they will know that it is too late.
- They will know that means there is no hope – they are lost, forever!

- The place is the Mount of Olives.
- The second point is the **People**.
- When Jesus comes back, He will not be alone. **Jude 14-15**
¹⁴ **Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”**
- As an aside, books like Jude that have no chapter breaks, you don’t identify as having a chapter.
- The verses I just referred to are Jude 14 and 15, not Jude 1:14-15.
- It is not a big deal, just the correct way to do it.
- Jude says the Lord will come with His saints.
- The NKJV, ESV, and the KJV all say ten thousands.
- It is meant to infer that there are many thousands, which is exactly how the NASB renders it.
- The NLT may have the best translation – countless thousands.
- The Greek word is transliterated to myriad in English - an extremely large, countless, or indefinitely great number of things.
- Paul gives an idea who Christ’s saints are. **1 Thessalonians 3:12-13**
¹² **And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, ¹³ so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.**
- Paul is writing to Christ-followers.
- We, as born-again, Christ-followers will come back with Jesus at His Second Coming.
- Every believer that has put their faith in Christ since His death, burial, and resurrection will be coming back with Christ.
- Not that people will be paying any attention to us.
- All eyes will be on Jesus.
- The place is the Mount of Olive and the people with Christ are true Christians.
- The third point is the **Purpose** of the Second Coming.
- We are going to look at seven purposes of the Second Coming.
- The first purpose of the Second Coming is to **Fulfil His Promise**.
- Jesus said He would be coming back. **Matthew 25:31**

³¹ When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

- He promised the disciples He would come back for them. **John 14:1-3**

¹Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

- Because God is faithful and true, He must do what He says He is going to do.

- God always keeps His Word.

- The second purpose for the Second Coming: **To Defeat Antichrist.**

- We will see that happen at the end of this chapter. **Revelation 19:19-21**

¹⁹ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

- At His second Coming Christ defeats the Antichrist, the False Prophet, and their army of wickedness.

- The third purpose of the Second Coming of Christ is **To Regather and Restore Israel.**

- God made a promise to Abraham that his physical descendants would be God's people forever.

- Even though most have walked in rebellion to God and His ways for millennia, the Jews are still God's people.

- Most will die in their sins because they refuse to repent and receive Christ as their Savior.

- But because God is faithful to keep His word, He will maintain a remnant until the time of the Second Coming. **Isaiah 43:5-7**

⁵Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west; ⁶I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' And to the south, 'Do not keep them back!' Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth— ⁷everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.

- Jeremiah also spoke about God's plan to restore Israel. **Jeremiah 30:10**

¹⁰‘Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,’ says the LORD, ‘nor be dismayed, O Israel; for behold, I will save you from afar, and your seed from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet, and no one shall make him afraid.’

- Even though the Jews are scattered everywhere on earth, God will bring them all back to Israel. **Ezekiel 36:24**

²⁴ For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.

- It has nothing to do with the Jews themselves.
- Nothing about them makes them worthy of God’s special grace and mercy.
- God will regather and restore the Jews based solely on His promise to Abraham.

In the same way, we are not worthy to be taken to heaven in the rapture. It is based solely on the finished work of Christ on the cross.

- The fourth purpose of the Second Coming is to **Judge the Living**.
- When Jesus comes back there will be both wicked and righteous people living on the earth.
- Turn to **Matthew 25**.
- The wicked are those who reject God’s plan and refuse to repent of their sins and turn to Christ.
- The righteous are those who have received Christ as their Savior.
- It might not be obvious which is which.
- Jesus knows who are His.
- **Matthew 25:31-33**
- The whole world can be divided into two groups; the sheep and the goats.
- The sheep are everyone who received Christ and the goats are the ones who did not.
- This applies only to those who are still alive at the time of the Second Coming.
- Anyone who died prior to the Second Coming has already been sorted.
- The righteous go to be with Jesus and the wicked go to Hades where they await the final judgment, the White Throne judgment in Revelation 20.
- Jesus then speaks to the sheep on His right hand.
- **Matthew 25:34-40**

- One of the pieces of evidence of our faith is our ministry to those who are less fortunate than we are.
- Jesus says that when we show compassion to others, we are doing it to Him.
- This reminds us that Jesus sympathizes with those who are hurting.
- When we hurt, Jesus hurts.
- On Jesus' left side are those who do not express compassion and mercy.

- **Matthew 25:41-45**

- This is not just about people do or don't do.
- It is about what is in their heart.
- Bad people can be compassionate and merciful and sometimes righteous people don't do those things.
- Jesus judges perfectly because He sees our heart. **Hebrews 4:12**
¹² **For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

- Those on the right hand of Jesus experience His blessing and eternal life.
- Those on His left hand do not.

- **Matthew 25:46**

- Both the wicked and the righteous will go into eternity.
- The righteous will go to eternal life in heaven and all its glory.
- The wicked to eternal punishment.
- The fifth purpose for the Second Coming is to **Resurrect the Dead**.
- The bride of Christ is raised to eternal life at the Rapture and given glorified bodies created to live in heaven with Jesus forever.
- At the Second Coming others are given their glorified bodies also.
- These would be the Old Testament saints and the Tribulation saints.
- The Old Testament prophet Daniel mentioned this resurrection.

Daniel 12:1-3

¹At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book. ²And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of

the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.

- And the Tribulation saints are mentioned later. **Revelation 20:4**

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

- It seems that everything is not equal in heaven.
- Each group will have its own place and relationship with God and Christ.
- It is not clear what those differences might be, but who cares – it will be heaven.
- The sixth purpose of the Second Coming will be to **Bind the Devil**.
- That will happen at the beginning of chapter twenty.
- An angel will grab Satan and bind him in chains in the pit for 1,000 years.
- That will give the world 1,000 years to rebuild without the wicked, corrupting influence of the Devil.
- The seventh and final purpose of the Second Coming is to **Establish Jesus as King**.
- In Jesus' first coming, He came as the Suffering Servant, the Lamb of God.
- Even then Jesus was the King.
- Matthew quoted Zechariah 9:9 about the Triumphal Entry. **Matthew 21:5**

⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.' "

- Jesus has always been King of kings and Lord of Lords.
- The angel Gabriel said this as he was telling Mary what God was going to do. **Luke 1:32-33**

³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.

- The Second Coming is the fulfilment of that prophecy.
- The first three points of the Second Coming were the place, the people, and the purpose.

- The fourth and last key point of the Second Coming is the characteristics or **Pattern** of the Second Coming.
- There are eight of these and we can go through them fairly quickly.
- The first characteristic is **Personally**.
- The person of Jesus Christ is coming to come back from heaven to the earth. **Acts 1:11b**

¹¹...**This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.**

- The second characteristic or pattern is **Literally**.
- Many of these characteristics overlap with others.
- The Second Coming is not symbolic.
- It should be interpreted as a literal event expected to happen in the future.
- The third characteristic of the second Coming is **Visibly**.
- The Rapture will only be seen by those who are caught up.
- The Second Coming will be seen by the whole world.
- The fourth characteristic of the Second Coming is **Suddenly**.
- The Second Coming of Christ will happen suddenly and without warning.
- One moment the world is turning, and the next Jesus will be standing on the Mount of Olives.
- The fifth characteristic of the Second Coming is **Dramatically**.
- President Trump has been doing some pretty dramatic things as we prepare to celebrate to 250th birthday of the United States.
- Those displays of power and glory will pale to insignificance to the Second Coming. **Luke 21:27**

²⁷ **Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.**

- I don't think our minds are capable of imagining what that will be like.
- The sixth characteristic of the Second Coming is **Gloriously**.
- This will be the greatest display of God's glory the world has ever seen.
- The seventh characteristic of the Second Coming is **Triumphantly**.
- We refer to the time Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey as the Triumphal Entry.
- The donkey is a symbol of peace and humility.

- At the Second Coming, Jesus will be riding a white horse.
- The horse is a symbol of victory and strength.
- The eighth and final characteristic of the Second Coming is **Certainly.**
- The Second Coming is certain because Jesus said it is coming.
- As believers, we rejoice in the hope of justice and the end of sin in the world.
- But as Christ-followers, we should also grieve for those who will be lost because of their sin.
- Make it your daily prayer that you are available to be used by God to give someone the truth they need to meet the Savior of their soul.
- Look at verse 11 again.
- **Revelation 19:11**
- John sees heaven opened.
- This gives the sense that he is viewing it from the earth.
- I have come to love Jesus.
- As I study God's Word His glory, majesty, and beauty cause me to worship Him with more passion and abandon.
- Then I come to some things like the description here of Jesus, and in my imperfect humanity I struggle with it.
- You see, we tend to imagine the Jesus we see in the gospels – the gentle, humble, kind shepherd who tends His flock with love, grace, and mercy – the shepherd who gave His life for the flock.
- That's the Jesus who saved me and you.
- That's the Jesus who stands in the presence of God and prays for me night and day.
- That's the Jesus who will someday come and get me to be with Him forever.
- But that's not the Jesus who will come back in the Second Coming.
- I am not saying there are two different Jesus', I am saying the way Jesus presents Himself is different in His Second Coming than it was in His first.
- We just talked about some of those things, but we'll look at them based on the verses before us.

- Look at the phrases that describe His coming – ‘in righteousness He judges and makes war.’ – ‘clothed in a robe dipped in blood’ – ‘out of goes a sharp sword – strike the nations - rule them with a rod of iron – treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.
- That is the Jesus who will ride forth from heaven on a white horse.
- This is holy Jesus fulfilling God’s promise of judgment on a world that has rejected His love, His grace, His mercy, His forgiveness through His sacrifice on the cross.

- There are many people in our culture and even in the church who reject this image of Jesus. **David Jeremiah**

In this twentieth century, men have replaced God’s holiness with a God of sweetness and light.

- We are now in the twenty-first century and it hasn’t gotten better.
- Being in God’s presence is sweet and He is light, but those realities are bound up in His holiness, just as His love, grace, and mercy are functions of His holiness.
- And God’s holiness demands justice, and the judgment of sin.
- Some object to this image of Jesus.
- They suggest that this is not the nature of Jesus. Really?
- Let me give you an example – if you know me, I am fairly good natured – not prone to angry outbursts or hostility.
- But if someone comes into my home and threatens my wife, children, or grandchildren, you will see a different Rick.
- I will protect my wife and family, because it is the right thing for me to do in that circumstance.
- When Jesus comes back to judge and make war with the wicked people of this world, it is the right thing for Him to do.
- In fact, it would be unjust if He didn’t do that.
- The imperfect human part of me doesn’t like it, but my spirit confirms that it is right.
- Though as I mature in my faith, I am becoming much more comfortable with the Jesus who come riding on a white horse with the sword of judgment.
- We are going to stop there for tonight.
- We will pick it up in verse 11 again next week.
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- **Switch to last PowerPoint slide.**
- **Closing Comments**
- If you have any questions, please connect with me.
- You can email me at rick@radicalword.com.
- You can also connect with me on social media.
- If you are listening to the podcast and would like to tune in to the live stream, you can go to radicalword.com and click on one of the links at the top of the page every Thursday at 6:30pm PST.
- Let's close with a word of prayer.
- God bless you all. Until next time, go be radical with Jesus.
- -
- **Stop recording.**
- For those of you watching the live stream, thank you for your participation.
- I will stay online for a few minutes if you have any questions or comments.
- Have a radical week with Jesus.
- **Switch to Post Stream scene.**
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