

CHILDREN SERMON - How high can you count? Can you count to 1,500,000? (USA soldiers killed)

Rev. 19:17-21 - “The Called Shot” of Armageddon

Intro - in a World Series in the 30's a batter came to the plate – Babe Ruth – pointed to flag pole.... The “called shot” is folklore in baseball. Today’s text is a hard one (Armageddon)...Memorial Weekend – Going to attempt to tie together: Babe Ruth, Birds and white crosses as an illustration of Armageddon

I am going to attempt to honor the dead of past wars while warning of a future war that is inevitable, predicted...Armageddon is a “called shot”. Scripture points to it, birds point to it, and thousands of white crosses point to it... as that wooden cross of our Lord was lifted up...it pointed to the heavens and was a “called shot” of Victory.(made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.” Col. 2:15)

ARMAGEDDON

- The word “Armageddon” is well known. (like “Anti-Christ” or “mark of the Beast”)
 - o Term is used only used once in scripture Rev. 16:16
 - o It means “mountain of Megiddo” *har*=mountain *magiddo*=megiddo
 - Megiddo is a town on a hill in northern Israel that overlooks a valley
 - Location of the final battle before Christ comes
- Other scripture mention this battle/war Revelation 19:11-21
 - o Rev. 17:14 Rev. 16:14-16 Rev. 14:17-20 Isaiah 34:1-6 Isaiah 63:1-6
 - o Joel 3:1-2,9-16 Zeph. 3:8 Zech. 12 Zech. 14 (14:1-4a,12-13)
- Armageddon is:
 - o A place where the LORD gathers the nations for judgment (war is judgment on nations)
 - o The nations come to fight against Israel/Jerusalem
 - kings from east – Rev. 16:12-14 10 kings of beast –Rev. 17:12-14
 - o They will be given over to panic/madness & fight against each other (Zech.12:4; 14:13)
 - o They fight against the Lord - not really a battle, just a blood bath (graphic - winepress)
 - o Jesus comes again, feet on the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4)
 - battle over Rev. 19:11-16

THE BIRDS

- Birds are mentions twice in our text
 - o 19:17-18 – an angel gives the birds an invitation to the “Great Supper of God”
 - There are 2 suppers mentioned in 19 - Marriage Supper and Great Supper
 - o 19:21 - after Jesus destroys the armies the birds gorge themselves
- Ezekiel 39:17-20 describes a similar event Matt. 24:27-28 – vultures gather at Coming

- Israel is a pathway for major bird migration (bottleneck from Asia/Europe to and from Africa)
 - o Twice a year 500 million birds migrate through Israel
 - o Video of Bird migration in Israel
- The stage is set and millions of birds point to a coming invitation.
 - o Scripture has foretold it, an angel will announce it and the bird will attend it.
 - The called shot of Armageddon

THE BEAST

- The Beast's AGGRESSION 19:19
 - o He is anti-christ - he is against Jesus
 - o The spirit of anti-christ is already here 1 John 2:18-23; 4:3
- The Beast's DECEPTION 19:20
 - o He deceives by way of miracle - 2 Thess. 2:9-10 Matt. 24:24-25
 - o Satan deceives men/nations to war against God Rev. 20:7-8
- The Beast's DESTRUCTION 19:20
 - o God laughs at those who rise up against Him Psalm 2
 - o The Beast and false Prophet are the first residence of hell - thrown alive into lake of fire
 - o This destruction is not annihilation – 1000 yrs later they are still there Rev. 20:10
 - 2 Thess. 1:8-9 (Matt. 13:40-42; 25:41 - Rev. 14:10-11)
 - o Don't fight against Christ – you won't win - only an eternal loss awaits

AMERICAN BATTLES

- Every war is the result of evil/sin and because there is evil there must be war
- Memorial day - we honor fallen soldiers it is fitting to do
 - Biblical precedent - 2 Samuel 1:17-27 "how the mighty have fallen in battle"
- Our nation has many cemeteries on foreign soil. Colin Powell said "we have sent men and women from the armed forces of the US throughout the past century to put down oppression. And when those conflicts were over, what did we do? Did we stay and conquer? No. we built them up. And did we ask for land? No. the only land we asked for was land to bury our dead." (video of American cemeteries on foreign soil)
- God is not an American...
- A prominent feature of the cemeteries are the rows and rows of white crosses
 - Powerful statement about the power of the cross Col. 2:15
 - The cross is not a defeat but a victory! It points to an upcoming victory
- Armageddon is a "Called Shot"
 - Like Babe Ruth pointing to the flag pole before he hit that home run
 - Scripture points
 - The Birds of air point (two giant reminders a year in Israel)
 - Thousands of white crosses point - statue at Normandy cemetery - inscribed below "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the LORD"