

That Great Day!

Have you ever been to a rodeo?

I remember when I went to the Rodeo in Memphis, TN when I was a little boy. This would have been around 1958, 59, or 1960.

It was a really big deal to get to go. My parents didn't have much money, and we always had to budget every dime. Very much planning went into everything we did, especially any kind of recreation.

So, I only got to go to the rodeo once the whole time I was a kid. I can still remember a lot that happened that night. They had all the usual rodeo activities – bull riding, steer roping, bucking broncos, even some kids my age that got out there and raced ponies. And some cowboys got hurt bad that night. That was all a really big deal, too.

But that was not why everyone was there that night. At the end of every rodeo – at least back in those days – the king and queen of the rodeo would ride out. That night the king and queen of the rodeo were Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. Wow! I knew who they were from their TV show and all the commercials and songs they did.

Well, they did come out, and it was an amazing sight to see. It happened at the end of the rodeo. First, there was a big drum roll and a dramatic announcement. The lights dimmed, and there was a hush – it got dead quiet in that arena. Suddenly, bright spot lights came on from all directions, and about a hundred (or so it seemed to me) other cowboys and cowgirls in bright sequined costumes rode out on the most beautiful horses I had ever seen. They rode in opposing circles around and around the area. All the people came to their feet and watched in awe. First they trotted, then they cantered, then they went into a full gallop, faster and faster, until suddenly all the riders pulled up into a formation at exactly the same moment. Then, out rode Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. The spotlights hit them and it looked like they were on fire. They and their horses were covered with rhinestones from head to toe.

Everyone cheered – what a show! And I got to see it myself! In person! It was all in the papers the next day. I talked about it for a long time afterwards.

There is a truly great day coming when we will see sights like we have never seen, and it won't be just a well-rehearsed performance. It will be God's day of judgment! What will happen on that day? Consider:

Revelation 19:11- 16 - Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 1:12-16 - Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

The Son of God will appear in the sky with His angels with a shout and the sound of a trumpet

1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 - For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until

the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

But - it will not be a comforting day for everyone...sinners will be lost eternally:

Revelation 6:14-17 - Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Revelation 20:11-15 - Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

We must be prepared because no one knows when Jesus will return – it may be tonight or tomorrow...

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 - But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.