

**Revelation #41****May 28, 2023****Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon****Today's Message: The Great Gathering and the Seventh Bowl; Revelation 16:12-21**

I am captivated by the events in chapter 15 and 16. Chapter 15 detailed the activities in heaven just before the final out-pouring of God's wrath through the seven final plagues dished out upon the inhabitants of the earth as detailed in Revelation 16.

We spent the majority of our time last week answering the question of "why the wrath of God?" It was good to take a brief biblical survey of the history of God in Creation, the fall and continued rebellion of man against God, and the redemption of God's people from their slavery to sin and death through Jesus Christ.. The point was that God has been patient, suffering-long with sinful, fallen humanity; God has even sent His Son to bring salvation to fallen men; but humanity in large part has ignored and even mocked the goodness and mercy of God.

Therefore, when we come to the Seven Plagues and as they are poured out upon the earth in bowls in furious and quick succession, we see the inhabitants of the earth hardened in mind and stony at heart instead of repentant and fearful of God's wrath. God's patience has come to an end and the unfolding of God's just punishment against the unrepentant is well deserved.

Before moving on into Revelation 17 and 18, which is another interlude covering important details of events occurring within the main flow of the chronology of Revelation, I first, want to take a little more time in order to see that Scripture is alive with predictions concerning the great gathering of the nations in the place called Armageddon. Second, I want us to discover what Scripture says about the events that unfold as the seventh bowl is poured out. And, third, I want to prime our curiosity concerning the exact time that Christ returns to earth in what is known as the second coming of Christ.

**I. (16:12-16) Prophecies concerning the Great Gathering of Revelation 16 and 19****A. The Sixth Bowl: A divine trap to lure the nations to gather together against Lord**

1. (16:12) God dried up the Euphrates River in order to prepare the way for the kings of the earth to gather near *Har-magedon* (The Hill of troops, or of *gathering*).
2. First, understand that rebellion against the God of heaven is in the hearts of kings of the earth and has been since the beginning.
  - a) Genesis 11:4: The people of the earth, living in the region known later in Scripture as Babylon, consulted together, devising their own plan for safety, security and prosperity:

- (1) "Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth.'"
- (2) But, God had said, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it." (Genesis 1:28b)
- b) Psalm 2:1-4: Joint conspiracy was nestled in the hearts of the kings!
  - (1) "Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves taking their stand, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed One, saying, 'Let us break their chains asunder, and cast away their fetters from us.' Well, He that is seated in the heavens laughs; the Lord scoffs at them!"
    - (a) In Revelation the Dragon, Beast and False Prophet demand that the inhabitants of the earth devote total allegiance to this unholy trinity!
    - (b) The kings are the enforcers of the tyrannical government of Antichrist!
      - (i) **Read Revelation 13:5-8**
      - (ii) **Read Revelation 13:11-14**
- 3. (16:13-14) Second, see that the three demonic spirits proceeding out of the mouths of the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet are unified in purpose to draw the kings and nations into battle against the Lord.
  - a) These **lying spirits** are manipulated by God to accomplish His purpose and glory. Although they speak the words of Satan, God allows them to draw the nations to the war as His prey to the slaughter!
    - (1) Many Scriptural examples of God manipulating evil spirits for His use and purpose to accomplish His plans and purposes:
      - (a) Judges 9:23: "God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the citizens of Shechem..." and God repaid Abimelech's wickedness by having him put to death.
      - (b) 1 Sam. 16:14; 18:10; 19:9: God sent a distressing spirit upon unfaithful Saul.
      - (c) 2 Kings 19:7: Hezekiah prayed and a spirit sent from God deceived Sennacherib turning him away from Jerusalem.
      - (d) 2 Thess. 2:11: "God will send a strong delusion so that they (the ungodly) should believe *the lie*."

- (i) God is not the author of evil, but utilizes evil to manipulate events fulfilling His sovereign purposes.
- b) (16:14) "They are the 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 the God Almighty."
  - (1) As the kings are being gathered by the demonic spirits, we read in Revelation 19:17, God is gathering all the birds making them ready to feast on "the flesh of the kings, generals, and mighty horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great."
- 4. (16:16) They are gathered at the place called *Har-magedon*, the hill of troops, or of *gathering*!
  - a) The word incorporates the idea of being *cut to pieces*.
    - (1) So the idea is that they are gathered for impending slaughter.
    - (2) God is gathering them for the day of slaughter!
  - b) This *gathering* place becomes the staging area for the nations to make a final push to destroy the Jews and Jerusalem
    - (1) Zechariah 14:2: The Lord says, "I will gather the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it..."
      - (a) Armageddon is a staging area where the campaign against God is launched. The final battle takes place at Jerusalem, not at Armageddon!
  - c) Their Diabolical Aim: to erase God's promises to preserve His people and His covenant with David to establish His forever King (Messiah Jesus), sitting on His forever throne, ruling over His forever Kingdom! (see 2 Samuel 7).
    - (1) Remember Psalm 2:2: "The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against His Anointed One."

#### B. Application:

1. Though Satan may buffet you, though he persecutes the church, though he tries to thwart God's plan and purpose for His glory and our good, we must remember to promise of God in Isaiah 54:17, "**No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper; and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the saints of the Lord and their vindication from Me, declares the Lord.**"

## II. (16:17-21) What Scripture Says about the unfolding of the events of the 7th bowl

- A. (16:17a) The seventh bowl poured out into the air.
  1. Our Sovereign God inflicts this final outpouring of His wrath into the air, which encompasses the entire domain of Satan
    - a) Ephesians 2:2 connects Satan's domain to the air, as Paul describes the enemy of the church who is called, "the ruler of the kingdom of the air."
- B. (16:17b) The loud voice from heaven saying, "It is done."
  1. There are several events where we see a completed work of God
    - a) In Genesis 1:31: God sees all He had made and called it very good.
      - (1) Genesis 2:3: On the 7th day "God rested from all the work of creating that He had done," implying that it was finished.
    - b) In John 19:30, At the end of His suffering on the cross our Lord said, "It is finished." Meaning that nothing more was to be added to His saving work.
    - c) Here in Revelation 16:17, God says, "It is done."
      - (1) This statement is directly related to the finished wrath of God.
    - d) Then, in Revelation 21:6 the Lord Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega of Revelation 1:8 says, "It is done."
      - (1) The wrath of the Lamb is at that time finally complete. The Judgments are over. His enemies are no more. Absolute eternal peace and joy and love and unhindered fellowship/ union...
- C. (16:18-20) An earthquake that shakes the entire globe.
  1. Predicted in Haggai 2:6-7: "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and the Desired of the nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the Lord Almighty."
    - a) God is the source of the shaking. He causes this final earthquake.
      - (1) It splits Jerusalem into three parts
        - (a) More on this in Part III of this message
      - (2) It levels the cities of the nations: NYC, Chicago, Peking, Moscow, Lusaka, Beirut, Tokyo, Columbus, etc.
        - (a) Babylon the Great– Antichrist's empire!
          - (i) Revelation 17 and 18 will detail this event!
      - (3) The face of the earth is leveled
        - (a) The islands and mountains disappear

- (i) Isaiah 40:4: "Every valley will be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground made level, the rugged places a plain."
- (b) Why? To prepare the way for the Lord's rule from Jerusalem over the Millennial Kingdom!
  - (i) Jeremiah 3:17: "At that time they will call Jerusalem The Throne of the Lord, and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honor the Name of the Lord..."
    - (a) Literally The Highest Throne: Supreme
      - (i) Jerusalem the highest city.

### III. **Connecting the Seventh Bowl, Armageddon, Jerusalem and the Second Coming of Christ?**

- A. The Seventh Bowl is the final outpouring of God's wrath concluding with the physical raising of Jerusalem and the leveling of the rest of the earth, in preparation for the Millennial Kingdom to be established.
- B. The Gathering of nations at Har-magedon for the final military campaign against Jerusalem and the Lamb.
  - 1. At this gathering and at the moment of plagues of the seventh bowl, while the armies are on the verge of destroying Jerusalem, our Lord Jesus Christ will set His feet down on the Mount of Olives and destroy His enemies.
    - a) Zechariah 14:2-4 (in part): "I will gather the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. On that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, for a great valley, with half the mountain moving north and half moving south."
    - b) Then, as Zechariah often does, he revisits the scene from a different angle in 14:5. Here he predicts the violent earthquake and a quick exit from the city by many. "You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him."
  - 2. You see in Revelation 16:18-20 the massive earthquake. The people will be under siege by the nations, all looks lost. Some will escape. But then, in a moment the Lord sets His feet down on Mount of Olives causing a massive split

dividing the Mount! Jesus has come to earth the second time along with all the holy ones.

a) In Revelation 19:14 we see the Lord coming along with His saints!

**C. Application:** God's wrath is coming and no one can prevent it or escape from it EXCEPT by receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior! There is NO wrath for that person!

**Rom.8:1**