

The Revelation

Lesson 14

a) Bowl Six (16:12-16)

(1) River Dried for Kings of East (16:12)

Rev 16:12a The sixth *angel* poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east.

The *sixth bowl of wrath* was different from the first five. The five brought harm and judgment to the *great red dragon*, the two *beasts* and their *Revived Roman Empire*. This *sixth bowl of wrath* was poured to help the *great red dragon*, the two *beasts* and their *Revived Roman Empire* in their efforts to rebel against the LORD. The bowl was poured on the **“great river, the Euphrates.”**

The Euphrates River has been a great barrier to the eastward and westward movement of armies, tribes and clans since the flood of Noah’s day. It is 1,800 miles long and in some places as wide as 3,600 feet and 30 feet deep. On any trip across that area, a decision had to be made early on whether the journey would go to the north or the south of the river. In this case, the people of the kings of the nations of the east will need an easy trail to join the *beasts* in their gathering in the valley of Megiddo. Any *kingdom* north of the Euphrates River would need to journey all the way to the beginning of the river north of Haran before turning south for a another 600-mile journey to Megiddo. Today, a road exists from Bagdad to Irbid, Jordan that could shorten the trip as the crow flies by about 1000 miles but that highway crosses right through the sands of the desert almost all the way with very few places to stop.

It is often said that these are the armies of the far east, meaning China and the other oriental nations, but the Scripture does not confirm that point. However, they are people who will be coming from the near east to join in the great battle, but it does not indicate that they are just military personnel; rather, it seems that they are people of all walks of life who hate God. With the drying up of the Euphrates River, the road to Megiddo will become much easier. The *Fertile Crescent* that follows on either side of the river provides numerous routes from about three-quarters up the river that lead directly into the Valley of Megiddo. Once the river is dry, many more routes will open that lead to Megiddo and all that needs to happen will be a call for everyone who hate God to come and join the rebellious party in the Valley of Megiddo.

(2) The Three Unclean Spirits Appear (16:13)

Rev 16:13 And I saw *coming* out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs;

With the Euphrates River dry, John saw “**three unclean spirits like frogs**” coming out of the mouths of the *dragon*, *beast*, and the *false prophet*. Before we address the *frogs*, we must turn our attention to a new person, the *false prophet*. Previously, we have clumped together the evil trinity as the *great red dragon*, the *first beast* and the *second beast*. We have also drawn the conclusion that the *great red dragon* was *Satan*, the *first beast* was the *Revived Roman Empire* and the *second beast* was a religion that preached *peace but spoke like the dragon*. In bowl five there is the mention of a *throne of the beast* which indicates

that there must be a human ruler or king of the empire and that is confirmed in other *End Times* passages. Here, John introduces us to the idea of another human, *the false prophet*. He is the human minister of the religion of the *Revived Roman Empire*. That religion will not be Christian. The only religion that preaches peace and speaks like the dragon is Islam. The *false prophet* of Islam will be a *cleric or Iman*. He will be the spokesman of the religion of the *second beast* that exists in the presence of the *first beast, which is the Revived Roman Empire*.

In the vision, John saw the *great red dragon, the first beast* and the prophet of the *second beast* with something that looked like *frogs* coming out of their mouths. John must have heard understandable voices coming out of the *frogs' mouths* planning and scheming rebellious and dreadful acts. We are almost 2000 years away from John and his vision. He had no idea what these *frogs* were, but we do. We call them phones.

(3) The Three Unclean Spirits Call Kings of the Worlds (16:14-15)

Rev 16:14 for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. ¹⁵ (~~"Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame."~~)

If we were living in John's day and saw the use of phones, we would have thought it was a great "sign." A better word for "sign" today is *miracle*. John saw the demonic trio speaking with all the "**kings of the whole world.**" Here, John used the word "**world**" purposefully instead of "**earth.**" John meant every king of every country of every square inch of the "**world.**" He did not care if they had the mark or not!

The purpose of the gathering is clear in this verse. The people were being gathered "**together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty.**" The *great red dragon, the beast*, and the *false prophet* were calling the kings of the world to enlist the help of humanity to wage "**war**" against "**God, the Almighty**" on the "**great day**." Here, we are clear that John understood that the rebellious trinity was calling the people of the world to war against God on His important day, but we are not sure that the diabolical triad knew what they were doing. They were gathering people to war against God when He arrived; we are not certain that they knew the disastrous outcome. *Satan* will know the outcome; he has seen the Bible. We do not know the extent of what the *Revived Roman Empire – the first beast* and Islam – *the second beast* with its *false prophet* knew about its final outcome. Surely the rebellious people of the world joining with their kings in Megiddo will not have a clue as to their fate when the *LORD* arrives.

Verse 14 is most revealing. For whatever reason, most Bible teachers have continuously left the impression on students that the *Revived Roman Empire* will control the entire world; it will not. It will require everyone within its borders to take the "**mark**" as well as anyone who wants to do business with them, but the requirement of the "**mark**" will not be worldwide. It will localize in the ten countries that make up the *Revived Roman Empire*. Therefore, the "**mark**" is a primary threat only to the people of *Britain, Spain, France, Italy, North Africa, Greece, Macedonia, Turkey, Syria and Egypt*. It is a secondary (or elective) threat to all the other nations of the world who want to do business with these ten countries; it is not a requirement for those who choose not to do business with them. But more than that, verse 14 proves that the *Revived Roman Empire* will not be worldwide. I have said several

times throughout this study that only the empires who reigned hard over Israel would culminate in the formation of this last empire. The heads of the *great red dragon* and the *first beast* were proof that the LORD was looking at the empires of *Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome* along with this *Revived Roman Empire*. China, India, Japan, Korea, United States, Canada, Ireland, Scotland, Chili, Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and the rest of the world will not be part of this empire. They will all still be autonomous in some form or configuration. In the future, nations not part of these ten countries will still be merging and dividing and doing business in the normal course of history as they have done through the ages. The *great red dragon, the beast and the false prophet* will simply require every person under their control to join them in the valley to fight the LORD. But in order to gather more forces to help with the battle, the trio will need to recruit people from the other nations in the rest of the world. The *frogs*, as John described them, will be used to call the kings of all the other nations of the world to invite them to bring their people to join in the war against God in the valley – it will be only an invitation, it does not mean that the invitation will be accepted by all!

How many people will the valley hold? How many people can squeeze into the boundary lines of the valley?

As we discovered in Lesson 2 of this series, the valley covers about 138 square miles of land. Experts tell us that 26 million people can stand side-by-side and front to back in one square mile. That means that the valley of Armageddon can squeeze in like sardines approximately 3,588,000,000 people or 10 people within every square meter in the valley; that many people compose almost half the population of the entire world today in 2018. However, if the *Revived Roman Empire* was formed in 2018, its total population would be about 561,000,000 people. To put that in perspective, the United States in 2018 has about 320,000,000 people. In other words, the valley of Megiddo will most likely hold three billion more people than the *great red dragon* has been controlling in the *Revived Roman Empire* if it was formed today. Let us not forget that the Euphrates River has been dried up so the kings from the east can join the dragon in the valley. The religion of Islam was formed in two large confederations to the east of the *Revived Roman Empire* and they are still Islamic today with no reason to change in the future. All of the southern confederation of Arabia will have no difficulty arriving safely in the valley because it lies south of the Euphrates River. However, the second confederation is basically divided by the Euphrates River and all the nations that lie north and east of the river would have a difficult time getting to Megiddo. With the river dry, half of Iraq, and all of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan would have no problem traversing the land to arrive in the valley.

Verse 15 is not found in the oldest and most reliable ancient manuscripts. Therefore, we will ignore it. To address the verse in context will disrupt the flow of the story and foster an error in biblical truth.

(4) The Three Unclean Spirits Gather People of the World (16:16)

Rev 16:16 And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.

John saw that the *frogs* were successful. Those who would come, came “**to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.**” In the western world we know the place as *Armageddon*. We have discussed this place in past lessons but in this verse, we have finally

arrived at its introduction in the story. In *seal six*, the Church had gathered in heaven as a *great multitude with palm branches that no one could number*. In *trumpet six*, the Nation of Israel was gathered to recognize Jesus as Savior and give *glory to God*. In *bowl six*, Satan and his rebellious followers were gathered in the valley of Megiddo to *war against God*.

Much has been said about “**Har-Magedon**” in literature and film. Most people believe it is the battle that ends the world; that is far from the truth. Most people believe that it is the final battle here on earth; that, too, is far from the truth. Waste not time worrying about this war. As Christians in the Church, we will be transformed to heaven long before all the tribulation of Israel begins in earnest. Jewish believers today must turn to the LORD and make Him Savior. The new name of Christian will be attached to believing Jews and their transformation to heaven will occur with the Church. Rebellious Jews, steeped in Judaism after the departure of the Church, must make Jesus LORD and hold on. It will be a rough ride, but the LORD is still in control and will prepare a place for you. As rebellious people, get ready, the *lake of fire awaits* – but that is getting ahead in the story.

b) Bowl Seven (16:17-21)

(1) The Announcement Sounds (16:17)

Rev 16:17 Then the seventh *angel* poured out his bowl upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, "It is done."

The pouring of bowl seven begins with an amazing announcement from a voice within the temple, “**It is done.**” What is done? Is the battle of Armageddon done? No, no, no! More of the story of the REVELATION must be told before the actual battle occurs. What then is done? The answer is actually found in this verse; it is the Temple – “**It is done.**”

At the end of the *seven seals, trumpets and bowls* the Temple is mentioned. Here in the seventh bowl of wrath it is mentioned for the last time. The need for the Temple or the habitation of the Ark of the Covenant/Testimony in heaven will be over soon. That is not to say that a Temple will not be put in place on earth, for one will. Ezekiel’s Temple will soon be built in Jerusalem after Armageddon. The LORD will leave the Temple or habitation in heaven and enter His earthly Temple on earth. However, the REVELATION does not specifically address the Temple described in detail in Ezekiel. Think of it this way, the book of REVELATION is looking at the *End Times* from heaven’s viewpoint, not from earth’s viewpoint. Such is the reason the LORD would not allow John to record in this book the rumblings and grumblings of the thunder and lightning of this world. This book is not for the worldly, it is for the heavenly. It is not from Satan’s view, it is from God’s view. It is not from humanity’s view, it is from heaven’s view. Heaven knows what is there and it knows what is about to change. The rule of heaven is about to become the rule of earth. The Indweller of the Temple in heaven is about to become the Indweller of the Temple on earth. And, the Indweller will never again return to the Temple in heaven. For the Temple in heaven, “**It is done.**” But even the Temple, inhabited by the LORD of creation, will not be needed for eternity. When the LORD has inhabited the earthly Temple for one thousand years, it, too, will be replaced by the *holy city of God coming down from above*. And there, in the New Jerusalem there will not be a Temple; there will be no place for a Temple; there will be no need for a Temple; the LORD God Almighty and the Lamb are all the Temple that will be needed. But for the heavenly Temple, “**It is done.**” We will not hear of it again in the REVELATION.

(2) The Earthquake Occurs (16:18)

Rev 16:18 And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake *was it, and so mighty.*

As expected, the thunder and the lightning were unhappy with the declaration about the Temple and they mumbled and grumbled and the lightning flashed to the earth and the greatest earthquake ever known shook the earth. As we mention in *seal six*, if this earthquake occurred today, in man's records it would have to be greater than the May 22, 1960 earthquake in Valdivia, Chile that was measured with a 9.6 magnitude. All the other earthquakes in the REVELATION were just *great earthquakes*, but this quake was "**such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty.**" This quake will be the worst of them all!

(a) The Great City Splits (16:19a)

Rev 16:19a The great city was split into three parts,

The greatest earthquake the earth had ever had will split the "**great city ... into three parts.**" Where is this "**great city?**" What is its name? How big is it? How vast are the structures within it? How many people inhabit it?

(b) The Cities Fall (16:19b)

Rev 16:19b and the cities of the nations fell.

The "**great city**" was not the only city to be damaged in this greatest earthquake of all time. John tells us that he saw "**cities of the nations**" fall. Not just one nation, so he must have seen the cities of many nations destroyed.

(c) The Babylon Remembered (16:19c)

Rev 16:19c Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.

Finally, John reveals a name for the second time, "**Babylon the great.**" That's the city! Babylon, Babylon, we are back to Babylon. What could be more appropriate? When we read through the Bible, the story of Babylon comes up here and there and it seems to never have a conclusion. It was the city of the greatest sin against God after Noah and his family departed from the Ark. Babylon became the place where the righteous became the unrighteous, the obedient became the disobedient. Sixteen-hundred and forty-nine years after the creation of Adam, sin had permeated the world. In God's plan for the ages a flood was needed to rid the world of evil and yet carry humanity on after the flood. Noah with his three sons and their wives floated through the ordeal with all the animals and when the Ark settled in the Mountains of Ararat, the family departed and began life alone in the new world. The Lord specifically instructed the family to disperse and populate the world. Over the next eight decades, children were born and the family began to grow. The family began to migrate down the Tigris River and settled a place they called Nineveh. A little later the family

crossed over the river and began to settle near the Euphrates River. As the family grew and Noah saw his family multiply down to the fourth generation, the 18 new family units stayed together instead of populating the world. At the Euphrates River, the grandson of Noah was in charge of the family. His name was Nimrod. He decided that the family would build a tower that would reach into the heavens. It was 98 years after the flood and Noah's family disobeyed God's instruction. The original righteous family had grown into unrighteousness. Because of their attitude, the LORD caused each of the families to have a new language and that caused them to spread out over the land and populate it according to each language. The Bible calls it the story of the *Tower of Babel* and those who remained there after the families were dispersed called the village Babylon. Later it would be the capital of the Babylonian Empire and be Nebuchadnezzar's home. All along the timeline of the earth, it will be a force in world history. The Bible, especially the Book of Isaiah is filled with prophecies about Babylon. Some of those prophecies have been clearly fulfilled; however, Isaiah chapter 13:1-16 has not been fulfilled.

Isaiah 13: ¹ The oracle concerning Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw. ² Lift up a standard on the bare hill, Raise your voice to them, Wave the hand that they may enter the doors of the nobles. ³ I have commanded My consecrated ones, I have even called My mighty warriors, My proudly exulting ones, To *execute* My anger. ⁴ A sound of tumult on the mountains, Like that of many people! A sound of the uproar of kingdoms, Of nations gathered together! The LORD of hosts is mustering the army for battle. ⁵ They are coming from a far country, From the farthest horizons, The LORD and His instruments of indignation, To destroy the whole land. ⁶ Wail, for the day of the LORD is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. ⁷ Therefore all hands will fall limp, And every man's heart will melt. ⁸ They will be terrified, Pains and anguish will take hold of *them*; They will writhe like a woman in labor, They will look at one another in astonishment, Their faces aflame. ⁹ Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it. ¹⁰ For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises And the moon will not shed its light. ¹¹ Thus I will punish the world for its evil And the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud And abase the haughtiness of the ruthless. ¹² I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold And mankind than the gold of Ophir. ¹³ Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, And the earth will be shaken from its place At the fury of the LORD of hosts In the day of His burning anger. ¹⁴ And it will be that like a hunted gazelle, Or like sheep with none to gather *them*, They will each turn to his own people, And each one flee to his own land. ¹⁵ Anyone who is found will be thrust through, And anyone who is captured will fall by the sword. ¹⁶ Their little ones also will be dashed to pieces before their eyes; Their houses will be plundered And their wives ravished.

None of the above passage has been fulfilled to this day. Babylon was never destroyed in history. After the death of Alexander the Great, his empire was divided into four sections with each controlled by one of his faithful generals. Babylon was taken to be the capital of Seleucus I Nicator's section. However, by 293 B.C., Seleucus had built a new capital city and he called it Seleucia. It was at that point that the city of Babylon began to decline and

eventually became deserted as it is now – a “**bare hill**.” As we will see later in this lesson, Babylon was built on the hill called *Abzu*. When Isaiah prophesied in chapter 13, in 750 B.C., it was still a powerful city in the Assyrian Empire and had yet to become the capital of the Babylonian Empire. That distinction would not arrive for about 150 years after this prophecy in 606 B.C. To top that, the opening verse says, “**Lift up a standard on the bare hill**.” From the time of the tower of Babel incident in 2494 B.C. until it was abandoned after 293 B.C., Babylon was never a “**bare hill**.” It was never destroyed by a country from the “**far horizon**” and it was never run over by the LORD’s “**consecrated ones**,” that he says, “**I have even called My mighty warriors, My proudly exulting ones, To execute My anger.**” We can continue down the passage and fail to find any of it fulfilled in the pages of the history of the ages. This Isaiah passage is for the future. Babylon must be rebuilt. Babylon must one day endure the LORD’s wrath in this passage. No doubt it will be built; no doubt it will soon be destroyed when an earthquake divides it into thirds. But, is this reference really the city of Babylon or something else? Perhaps the Revelation will give more details, and it does in Revelation 17:5.

(d) The Islands and Mountains (16:20)

Rev 16:20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

Such a “**great earthquake**” occurred that John actually saw the islands move and the mountains shrink. Here we must remember, John used the word *earth* and not the word *world*. John is not speaking of all the islands and mountains of the whole *world* but rather, the islands and mountains of a specific plot of land, as large as it may be, covering at least ten countries.

(e) The Hailstones Drop (16:21)

Rev 16:21 And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe.

Not only was the earthquake to be the largest recorded on earth, so, too, these hailstones most definitely surpass the records of hailstones of the past. The largest recorded hailstone in the United States was 8 inches in diameter. It fell in Vivian, South Dakota on July 23, 2010 and it weighed 1.9375 pounds. John has just revealed that the hailstones of this *seventh bowl* will be about 50 times larger than any we have weighed and measured on earth. Here is one more interesting fact of God’s creation, hail falls in the warmer months. For instance, hail in the southern United States occurs the most in March; the northern states must wait until May for their greatest chance for a hailstorm. But in general, hailstorms fall in the northern hemisphere between May and September. In the future, when all the precious prophecies of the REVELATION have been fulfilled, perhaps, the great city of Babylon should be ready in those months for an earthquake and a hailstorm like the world has never experienced. No wonder the people in Babylon and the surrounding nations will be fearful, but they will not be fearful enough to turn to God. Rather, they will curse him. But, do we really know all there is to know about this great city of Babylon yet? In the next two chapters we will learn much more about Babylon and with that, we must be introduced to one more major participant in the story of the *End Times*. She is the *great harlot*.