



## SESSION 30 | REVELATION 16:12-21 | THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

### THE SIXTH VIAL | REVELATION 16:12-16

- Verse 12 - **The great river Euphrates**
  - This does not appear to be symbolic, and thus should be taken literally.
  - The Euphrates stretches from Turkey to the Persian Gulf, acting as a natural barrier to ground travel from Iraq and eastward.
  - The drying up of the Euphrates has tremendous political implications, and is possibly even one of the reasons Babylon revolts against the Antichrist (who is in Turkey / Syria). (This assumes that the Antichrist receives the blame or the brunt of the criticism for the drying of the river).
- Verse 12 - **the kings of the east**
  - Literally, "from the rising of the sun."
  - Who are "the kings of the east?"
    - We typically quickly assume they are Persians, Chinese, etc., which may be true.
    - If so, we wonder...
      - why an angel is preparing their way
      - why they are distinguished from the "kings of the earth" in v. 14.
  - When Scripture is allowed to shed light, we see some interesting things—
    - Isaiah 40:3 speaks of a path being prepared
    - Ezekiel 43:2 speaks of the glory of God coming from the east
    - Matthew 24:27 speaks of the Son of Man coming from the east to the west
    - Isaiah 41:2 speaks of the Righteous man from the east for the judgment of the nations.
    - Isaiah 41:5 also speaks of the Islands and the earth being afraid, which rings harmonious with Rev. 16:20.
- Verse 13 - 14— **unclean spirits like frogs**
  - The spirits were "unclean like frogs."
  - It is interpretive whether the spirits themselves had frog-like appearance.
  - **Which go forth** - Grammatically it is indecisive, but likely the "which" should refer to the spirits, not the miracles. Literally, "they (Spirits of demons doing signs) are to go forth...."
  - These spirits gather the **kings of the earth and of the whole world.**
    - That is, not only the Kings and their militaries, but men and women of all walks of life.
    - See Joel 3:9-21 for a comparison, especially noting the call to the weak in v. 10.
- Verse 14 - **The battle of that great day of God Almighty**
  - This is the more Biblical name of the Battle. We call it the "Battle of Armageddon" because of the gathering place mentioned in v. 16.
- Verses 15 - an encouragement
  - This word is to the Jewish remnant of that future day.

- The church is told that the Day of the Lord will NOT come as a thief (1 Thes. 5:4), because the church is not in "darkness."
- Compare to Revelation 3:3.
- Verse 16 - Gathered to Armageddon
  - The "he" is the sixth angel of v. 12.
    - The unclean spirits of vv. 13-14 gather the kings and peoples of the earth, then the angel gathers them to Armageddon.
    - Many translations use "they" regardless of the singular verb. They do so with the assumption that the closest noun (spirits) of v. 14 is plural, and assume that there is too much space between the singular "angel" in v. 12. I think this assumption is unmerited and that grammar should prevail. Only one ancient text (the Syriac) has the Greek in the plural.
  - **Armageddon:**
    - That is, the mountain of Megiddo.
    - Megiddo is the most prominent city in the Jezreel Valley, which is often called "The Valley of Armageddon," though never in Scripture.
    - Megiddo is not a natural mountain, but a man-made "Tel."

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#### THE SEVENTH VIAL | REVELATION 16:17-21

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- Verse 17 - **it is done**
  - Chronologically, we are at a changing point from this point forward.
  - The last bowl of wrath has been poured out, the end shall come.
- Verse 19 - **the great city**
  - While most assume Jerusalem is "the great city," the rule of "Scripture interprets Scripture" doesn't allow this.
  - The exact Greek term "η πολις η μεγαλη" [literally, "the city the great"] is used six times in the book of Revelation, and in the other five is exclusively a reference to Babylon.
  - Furthermore, the exact term is used only once in the Septuagint, in Genesis 10:12 of Resen, also a city built by Nimrod.
  - Presumably, therefore, the "great city" is Babylon, and it will be divided in three parts by the earthquake of v. 18.
- Verse 19 - **great Babylon**
  - Remember that Babylon was founded as an attack against God's Word, and was so destructive to God's intent that God started a new dispensation based on what took place at Babel, the original Babylon.
  - Now, at the end of the "age of the gentiles," God is going to destroy Babylon forever.
  - Linguistic note: Babylon is "the place of Babel" just like "Mageddon" is "the place of Megiddo."
  - Chronological note: The destruction of Babylon was foreseen in Rev. 14, and is described in Revelation 17-18.
- Verse 20 - the Islands and the mountains
  - Compare Zechariah 14:10.
  - Note that the Greek does not contain a definite article for "mountains," but shows that **every island fled** and *certain mountains were not found*.
  - Several Scriptures speak of mountains in the Millennium.