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C0813 – April 2, 2008 – Joel 3:9 – The War Of Armageddon

Let's start with Matt 25. We want to review the sheep/goats judgment. Joel just dealt with the goat side but in Matt 25 Jesus deals with the sheep and the goats. Remember the timing of the judgment, this is when Christ returns in all His glory. So, the Church has been raptured, the 7-year Tribulation has happened and now we're at the Second Coming. In v 31 the Son of Man is going to sit on His glorious throne and gather before Him all the nations. So, let's review whose there. Obviously Jesus and then there are three groups of people. There are, in v 32 all the nations gathered, *ta ethne*, these are the Gentiles, all Gentiles who survive the Tribulation in flesh and blood bodies like you and I have. Then we see in that verse that the nations are divided into two groups, the sheep and the goats. Sheep on His right and goats on His left. The third group is in verse 40 we have Jesus' brethren. We identified His brethren as Jewish disciples, clearly they too survived the Tribulation and are in flesh and blood bodies. They are believers. Now, let's look at this diagram. There won't be any notes for this, I want to just walk through this and I want you to interrupt me if you have a question. That's always helpful because I may be leaving something out that forms a crucial link in your logic chain. So just barge in anytime.

Sheep/Goats Judgment

Matt 25:31-46; Joel 3:1-8

3. His Brethren (40, 45)

Son of Man (31)

1. Sheep (32, 33)

- inherit the kingdom (34)
- go into eternal life (46)
- pro-Semitic (35-40)

2. Goats (32, 33)

- go into eternal punishment (46)
- go into eternal fire (41)
- anti-Semitic (41-45)

Alright, tonight we want to back up before the Sheep/Goats Judgment to another judgment but this one is part of the Tribulation. So Joel's not sequential in all his writings, you have to put all this together from timing passages, it's not easy, but comparing with other passages we know this happens before the Sheep/Goats judgment. So, vv 9-17 are going to deal with the War of Armageddon. Some people call it the Battle of Armageddon other people call it a Campaign, I call it a War because it's a series of battles not just one. In v 9 it's called a war, **Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare a war** (*milhama*). A war is different than a battle because it comprises a series of battles that occur in resolution of a conflict. So this is the War of Armageddon. Rev 19:19 also refers to Armageddon as a "war" (*polemos*). So this proclamation will go out toward the end of the Tribulation. And we want to see how this proclamation will go out so turn to Rev 16. Rev 16 recounts the seven bowls. Remember, you have 21 judgments during the Tribulation. The 7 Seals in the first half of the Tribulation, the 7 Trumpets and 7 Bowls in the second half of the Tribulation. And we want to look at the proclamation that goes out during the sixth bowl. So this is near the end of the Great Tribulation. And verse 13, "And I saw *coming* out of the mouth of the dragon" that's Satan (Rev 12:9) "and out of the mouth of the beast" that's the Anti-Christ (Rev 13:1-10) "and out of the mouth of the false prophet" (Rev 13:11-18), that's the counterfeit Trinity. Satan counterfeits God the Father, Antichrist counterfeits God the Son and the False Prophet counterfeits God the Spirit. Now in verse 13 John sees something coming out of the mouth of

each, namely “three unclean spirits like frogs; ¹⁴for they are spirits of demons, performing signs,” and where do they go? “...out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty.” That’s Armageddon. That’s exactly what Joel’s talking about, there’s going to be a proclamation go out to all the nations and John saw this vision that tells us it will go out from the counterfeit trinity; Satan, Antichrist and the False Prophet. Verse 16, “And they” the three demonic spirits “gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.” “Har” meaning “mountain” so it is the mountain of Megiddo. Today they call it Tel-Megiddo which means “hill of Megiddo.” Usually you think of the great plain but this has reference to the city that was located on a hill overlooking the great plain of Jezreel. Megiddo sits on a narrow pass where the ancient road, the Via Maris, Latin for “the Way of the Sea,” it was the international highway that connected the three continents; Europe, Africa and Asia. So this is the most important road in the ancient world and with Megiddo sitting there it turned out to be the location of many battles. Pharaoh Thutmose III fought the Canaanites there, Napoleon fought the Turks there, General Allenby fought the Turks and the Germans there during WWI. Over time 26 layers of ancient ruins accumulated at Megiddo evidencing the many destructions of the city. Those of you who go to Israel with us will get to visit this hill and overlook the valley where all the nations’ armies will gather to go against Israel. And this is a massive valley. Israel has an underground Air Force in the valley somewhere, all you can see on the surface is an airstrip and you’ll have this jet fighter taxi out and take off in the middle of this vast valley where the armies of the world will gather to exterminate Israel. So the three demonic spirits emanating from the counterfeit trinity will “go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty, and they will be gathered to the place which is called Har-Magedon.” Turn back to Joel.

Prepare a war Joel says, but the idea of the Hebrew “prepare” is “declare”. Declare a war, **rouse the mighty men!** So war is going to be declared against Israel. This is the world’s final solution to the Jewish problem; total extermination headed by the counterfeit trinity. God says in Zech 14:2 “For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle.” She will be all alone. **Let all the soldiers draw near, let them come up!** Come up where? Come up to the land of Israel, come up to Armageddon. Verse 10, **Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, “I am a mighty man.”** You know, there will be great deception

in these days. Even those who are **weak**, who have no military training, no military expertise, will be deceived into thinking they are **mighty**. So you've got this call to take your farming equipment, **plowshares** and **pruning hooks** and **beat** them into **swords** and **spears**. There are a few things to say about this. The first is that the opposite is said in Isa 2:4 and Mic 4:3. Hold your place in Joel and turn to Isaiah 2. Now, this is a Messianic Kingdom passage. Jesus has returned and set up His everlasting kingdom. Now, in verse 4, "And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks." Look at that, it's the opposite of what you have in Joel, in the Tribulation they'll take farming equipment and make weapons but in the Millennium they'll take weapons and make farming equipment. An exact reversal. This is why it's so important to know where you are in the dispensational scheme of things. We are not in the kingdom we are in the church. Second thing, there is a statue in front of the UN Headquarters. They've got a man beating his sword into a plowshare.

You may think "Oh what a beautiful thing, what a wonderful idea, everybody getting rid of their weapons." But this is a blasphemous thing, absolute autonomy and absolute stupidity if you ask me. Incidentally they've got the Isa passage quoted on the inscription. Think of the confusion here; a Millennial statue in an age of war. What's the blasphemy of this? Obviously what the UN is saying, that man, man in his autonomy and by his own might is going to bring peace on earth. The perfectibility of man, a doctrine from the pit of hell, denies the doctrine of total depravity. And just how is the autonomous UN going to bring in peace? Apparently through the gradual process of negotiation. In the meantime we'll let the terrorist do their thing and kill innocent people. We'll just sit by and say, "No, no, you shouldn't do that. You're being a bad boy." And that's not going to get us anywhere because these people have maligned the Bible, torn it right out of context and that's why you've heard that the Bible is the most abused book in the world. Because someone's got their pet doctrine, in this case pacifism and they want to get some support from the Bible because that's an important doctrine, at least to some people, so we find our verse and yank it right out to further our agenda. Is that how peace is going to be ushered in? By human autonomy? Nothing wrong with wanting peace but how is it going to be ushered in? Only Jesus Christ in His bloody holy war garments described in Isaiah as

stomping the wine press of the wrath of God. Not exactly a friendly negotiation. But it's a remarkable portrayal right there in front of the UN of the idolatry of paganism. We, in all our wisdom, in all of humanity's goodness can usher in peace step-by-step through negotiation. No interferences, let's just make it law that we come into your homes and take your weapons and then we'll have peace. That's what's coming to America. Here's what the Obama says about weapons. "I will cut investments in unproven missile defense systems. I will not weaponize space. I will slow our development of future combat systems...I will set a goal of a world without nuclear weapons. ..I will negotiate with Russia to take our ICBM's off of hair-trigger alert...and to achieve deep cuts in our nuclear arsenal." He could be our next president. Now look, it's the wrong age of history for doing that. Besides, you can take all the weapons away but that's not going to stop killing, that's not going to stop war. People still have a sin nature. You think you're going to stop Arab's from developing nuclear weapons. You can forget it. You think you can stop people from fighting, forget it. Pacifism is built on the doctrine of man's inherent goodness, that given time and evolution man is perfectible. But the Bible teaches a doctrine of depravity and that the only solution is the resurrection body and total separation of good from evil by Jesus Christ. So all you're doing by trying to take away weapons is setting yourself up for a slaughter. Only Jesus Christ can usher in peace, that's why He's called the Prince of peace, and that's why Isa 2:4 concludes, "Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war." In the Millennium. That's not going to be brought in by the UN, the pagan shrine of autonomy over there in Europe, that's going to be brought in by Christ. Only then will there be no more wars, no more military training facilities, no more soldiers. For a thousand years, think of it; no war, no training facilities for war, no war casualties. Nice place.¹ But now you better hold on to your weapons. Third observation in our Joel passage, farming equipment will be turned into swords and spears. Anyone find anything odd about that? The weapons of war there? Sounds like ancient weapons. What about high powered weapons, advanced digital rocketry systems, tanks, aircraft, etc...Well, it seems that all that is unavailable by this point in the Tribulation. Anyone who does a serious study of the 20 Tribulation judgments leading up to the War of Armageddon knows that technology, and this is one of the drawbacks to technology in the future, is that if one little thing goes wrong it doesn't work, think of your car 30 years ago, just about everyone could work on a car but try now, one little sensor goes out and I

don't know how to fix that. Gotta take it in. The point is that weapons are becoming highly technical and if the system gets knocked out then the weapon doesn't work right. And it seems that in the Tribulation the entire technological network that the world has set up is decimated within a few judgments and the world, virtually overnight, falls back to ancient standards, swords and spears. No nuclear weapons. What are they doing in the land of Israel if they have nuclear weapons? See, you don't need to gather all the nations' armies in the land of Israel if you've got an operational stealth bomber that you can just fly over and drop a bomb on them. Do a Hiroshima or Nagasaki. I point this out to people time and time again but some prophecy teachers still don't get it. They keep wanting to interpret locusts as apache helicopters and stuff and that's just not the case. By that time in the Tribulation it is obvious from the text that high tech weapons are not available. The Tribulation judgments decimate technological weaponry systems pushing mankind back into the stone age. Verse 11, **Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations**, there is a great hurry to assemble and finish off the Jews once for all. **And gather yourselves there**, in the valley of Armageddon (Rev 16:16). **Bring down, O LORD, Your mighty ones**. This is the other side of the battle, while the nations' are gathering for war the Lord prepares His army. Now who are they? Who are the Lord's **mighty ones**? Probably His angels. The great tribulation trumpet and bowl judgments involve angels (Matt 13:39). So, this is a human-angelic conflagration transpiring. ¹²**Let the nations be aroused And come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat**. This is the site of the key battles at the very end. We saw the valley of Jehoshaphat last week as the location of the sheep-goats judgment in Matt 25. That occurs *after* the Second Coming but this occurs *before* the Second Coming. So we have two events held in the same location but at different times; the War of Armageddon before and on the day of the Second Coming and the Sheep/Goats Judgment after the Second Coming. **For there I will sit to judge All the surrounding nations**. So the key battles will take place in the valley of Jehoshaphat which we identified as the Kidron Valley. The majority of the human soldiers will be from **the surrounding nations**, those which are particularly anti-Semitic. Verse 13, **Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe**. Alright, by this time anti-Semitism has reached the point of harvest. God allows men to go only so far in their anti-Semitism and then there is judgment. **Come, tread, for the wine press is full; The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great**. So, what we have here is God's enemies all gathered in one place, one wine press

so to speak, all in the land of Israel, all in the valley by Har-Mageddon. That's the picture, all the grapes are like little people and they just get stomped. And much of this is carried out by His angels. **Come and tread** they are told, tread them as grapes in a wine press. This is total annihilation of God's enemies. Anti-Semitism is wickedness, absolute and total lawlessness, violation of Gen 12:3. If you curse Israel you will be cursed. Turn to Rev 14 where John picks up this terminology of putting in the sickle and reaping. I think this is a description of the War of Armageddon. Some of these descriptions in chapter 14 are difficult but there's no question that they look back to Joel and expand upon what Joel heard. There's going to be two reapers and two sickles in these verses. Verse 14, "Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud *was* one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand." This is probably the Messiah, indicating that all the judgments ultimately are under His sovereign control. "And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe." ¹⁶Then He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped." So that's the first reaper with the first sickle. Then, verse 17, "And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸Then another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle," the angel, "saying, "Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe." ¹⁹So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered *the clusters from* the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God. ²⁰And the wine press was trodden outside the city," that's outside the city of Jerusalem which is in the Kidron Valley we looked at last week, "and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles." Nice picture, that's a pretty great distance and it reaches from the valley of Jezreel, near Armageddon all the way to Bozrah, near Petra. The loss of human life is unfathomable. Joel 3:14. **Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!** Gathered against God and His Christ and the nation of Israel **in the valley of decision**, the site of the final battles over Jerusalem. The Hebrew word "decision" is *harus* and means "strict decision" or "a trench". The Kidron valley is a trench valley and that is where God will execute His strict decision on the multitudes gathered against Him. Turn to Zech 12 for another look at this. Zech 12-14 are some of the key chapters

describing the Tribulation and one of the things you want to keep in mind when you look at these chapters is that Israel is victorious in this battle, Israel is rescued and restored. I say that because a lot of Christians are turning to a system of prophecy called Preterism which says that most if not all prophecy was fulfilled in AD70 when Jerusalem was surrounded and defeated by Titus and the Roman armies. They say that God is done with the Jews. One of the problems with that is what do you do with Zech 12-14 which predict not a destruction of the Jews and Jerusalem but the restoration of the Jews and Jerusalem. And Zechariah was written late, 480BC, more than 50 years after their restoration from Babylon, so this can't be referring to that restoration. It must be future. Reading from verse 1 in the KJV, "The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him." That establishes the sovereignty of God, His sovereign ability to accomplish His word. History is not run by a roll of the dice, history is run by God. "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah *and* against Jerusalem. ³And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it. Jerusalem will indeed be a cup of trembling to all the nations." End of verse 6 you see that "the inhabitants of Jerusalem will again dwell on their own sites." In verse 7 "that He will save the tents of Judah first." Verse 8, that "He will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem." And verse 9, "in that day God will set out to destroy all nations that come against Jerusalem." There's nothing about Israel being surrounded and defeated here, that's Luke 21:21-24 which was fulfilled in AD70 but this is the restoration of Israel and the defeat of the nations that come against Jerusalem in the future. So, we're Christian Zionists and proud of it. It's the word of God. And what you're being taught here is hardly ever taught in any church in the world today. (I was talking to Arlie Francis the other day). Christian denomination after Christian organization after Christian institution is turning against Israel. Why you ask? Ultimately because of Satanic deception, they've got some higher standard than the word of God, some other authority, whether it be humanitarianism, their idolatrous desire to give the Arab Palestinians a higher quality of life, that's the typical argument. But the word of God says that land is the covenanted land of Israel, they hold the title deed. We already saw in verse 2 the indictment on the nations based partly in fact on

the nations dividing God's land. Israel is not the cause of the Arab Palestinian's plight. Before the war broke out in 1948 the Arab nations should have opened their borders to their Arab brothers, but they didn't. Besides, God controls history. And listen to this; there are Palestinian Christians who are pro-Israel. Walid Shoebat was a Palestinian Terrorist. He strapped explosives around his chest and walked right down the streets of Bethlehem on a mission to blow up Jews and on the way something got to him, he didn't carry out his mission, he became a Christian and now he's a Christian Zionist. Why's that you ask? Because He's reading the Bible! The body of Christ is a higher loyalty than blood relations. What did Jesus say, "I will turn father against son and mother against daughter." What's that talking about? That Jesus Christ is the dividing line. Relationship to Him is more important than blood ties. And we see now that the world is rapidly turning more and more anti-Semitic. So these events are right on our doorstep, stage-setting has begun, the play is about to begin. Verse 15, **For the day of the LORD** and remember, the context is the great and terrible day of the Lord from 2:31, the day of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, that day **is near in the valley of decision**. Hold your place and turn to Isa 34 for another look at the destruction. This is why I always say Jesus Christ is the greatest Killer and the greatest Savior. There is Judgment and Salvation. There is a final separation of Evil from Good and it doesn't come by political negotiation at the EU or the UN. It comes by war. Some people say there is no such thing as a just war. That's directly contradicted by Rev 19:11, "in righteousness He judges and wages war." Judgment means to cut, to make a decision, to divide. And God gives every person revelation of Himself and if that is rejected then there is nothing left to do but judge, separate the chaff from the wheat. So every person has a choice either to submit to God, trusting in His provision of salvation or rebel against God, rejecting His provision of salvation. But it's one or the other. Let's start in verse 2, "For the LORD'S indignation is against all the nations, And *His* wrath against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to slaughter. ³So their slain will be thrown out, And their corpses will give off their stench, And the mountains will be drenched with their blood. ⁴And all the host of heaven will wear away, And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; All their hosts will also wither away As a leaf withers from the vine, Or as *one* withers from the fig tree. ⁵For My sword is satiated in heaven, Behold it shall descend for judgment upon Edom And upon the people whom I have devoted to destruction. ⁶The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, It is sated with fat,

with the blood of lambs and goats, With the fat of the kidneys of rams. For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah And a great slaughter in the land of Edom. ⁷Wild oxen will also fall with them And young bulls with strong ones; Thus their land will be soaked with blood, And their dust become greasy with fat. ⁸For the LORD has a day of vengeance, A year of recompense for the cause of Zion.” Alright, talk about a judgment, talk about separation of good and evil. Let’s go back to Joel. Verse 15, **The sun and moon grow dark And the stars lose their brightness.** This is another blackout. There are several blackouts in the Tribulation. I take it that this blackout is the last of these. It occurs on the day of the Second Coming. Turn over to Matt 24 to see this. People wonder what the sign of Jesus’ Second Coming is. People speculate a cross in the sky or something, it’s nothing like that. The sign is given in verse 30 but the backdrop of the sign is given in verse 29. In other words the stage has to be set in order to see the sign. And here’s the stage in verse 29, “But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT,” alright, so it’s a blackout, that sets the backdrop just as Joel predicted, verse 30, “And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn,” no obviously they see something, something that is apparently greatly distressing. What do they see? Is it the glory of God against a black background? It has to be some kind of light phenomena since its dark. Is it the Shechinah Glory of God? I think it’s very reasonable to conclude that it is because the Shechinah Glory was the star leading the wise men to the Messiah at Bethlehem at His first coming and now it’s Shechinah Glory introducing the Messiah at His Second Coming. And then he says, “they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.” Then in v 31 you have the regathering of the nation of Israel. But let’s turn back to Joel 3, verse 16 and while you do think about the fact that these truths are all over the Bible. It’s not just in Revelation or something. It’s all over the OT, it’s all over the NT. Almost a third of the Bible was prophetic when written. So Joel is talking about the blackout on the day of the Second Coming and then verse 16, **The LORD roars from Zion And utters His voice from Jerusalem, And the heavens and the earth tremble.** Ooh, people don’t like this because they like to think of Jesus as a lamb, and that’s one side of the equation, He was like a lamb led to slaughter as Isa 53 says. He did not say a word. Ever wonder why didn’t He say a word? Have you ever wondered why? Because His voice causes ripples in the space-time continuum. Remember the time when He spoke and everybody got knocked

down. The cosmos is controlled by the tip of His tongue. So He didn't say a word because He had a mission to accomplish, a mission for you and me, to be a lamb led to slaughter. His language is controlling the physics of the universe. But when He comes a second time He's not a silent Lamb. You have to stay in balance. The other side is that He's a roaring Lion. He's the Lamb slain but the Lion victorious. The days of the little Lamb are over; the time of the Lion of God has come. Be listening for His roar because when He **utters His voice from Jerusalem the heavens and the earth tremble** (cf Hag 2:6-9). It's like a sound wave goes forth that causes the fabric of space-time to vibrate. Remember, this is the same voice that created the universe in Gen 1. This is the same One who's voice, when it reaches you via Scripture is the power of God unto salvation, to generate a new creation, the regenerative work of God and now this is the voice that roars from Zion causing a cosmic disturbance. That's what we mean by God's language, God's voice, God's word. It's powerful. Talk about uniformitarian natural law. Can natural law do that? I don't think so. **But the LORD is a refuge for His people And a stronghold to the sons of Israel.** While the entire cosmos is undergoing reconstruction via His voice He is a haven for Israel, a stronghold for them. Powerful words, omnipotent words, cosmic shattering words, these are the words that will cause in Phil 2 every knee to bow and every tongue to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Phil 2:9-11). When He roars people bow. And note the perfect discrimination. We say this is a truth that always accompanies judgment/salvation. And here's perfect discrimination between Israel and the nations (Nah 1:7). Not one Israelite will fail to find refuge in the Lord. Verse 17, **Then you, Israel, will know that I am YHWH your Elohim,** What did we say is the big theme of Joel? What does Joel's name mean? Yah-el, short for Yahweh-elohim, that Yahweh is God. And the Book makes clear that when they fabric of space-time is disrupted, when the Jewish people find refuge in Him then they will know that He and He alone is YHWH. Forget all this idolatry they kept getting into. Idols are counterfeits of God. They promise refuge. They promise stability but they can't deliver. This is what Israel struggled with, this is what we struggle with, idols that vie for our allegiance. And it happens subtly because Satan is subtle. He doesn't walk in with horns on, Paul says He's an angel of light and while he's got you distracted over here he's slipping you a fast one over here. And it tends to start in your imagination. The imagination is powerful and Satan knows that and he plays on that, getting you to play out certain behaviors in your mind and then all of a sudden it's deep seated in your life and it starts affecting

your thought processes, your behavior. It's very dangerous. So you've got to be on your toes. John says, "guard yourselves from idols," (1 John 5:21) that means you have to actively exert yourself, expend energy to keep yourself out of it. There's a great book by a guy in the 70's named Schlossberg called *Idols for Destruction* and he thought this through and it's a great study on the idols that have brought down American culture, the idols of historicism, the idols of statisms, the idols of philosophy, the idols of government, and on and on and on. There's a reason the first of God's Ten Commandments warned against idolatry. There's a reason the first commandment Israel broke was idolatry. And it's because idolatry is at the heart of our carnal hearts. Why do you think the greatest commandment in the Bible is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength?" Because the tendency is always to exalt something or someone else as our ultimate loyalty. To replace God. Who or what is your ultimate allegiance? Is it something inside creation or is it the Creator. You're going to have to dive into the Scriptures, check out Schlossberg's book, he'll give you some ideas of some idols you may have hidden away. In fact, we're going to do a study on that someday. I've already decided, a class strictly on idolatry. I've never seen that but it's something that penetrates every page of Scripture because God penetrates every page of Scripture and what are idols but false gods. So, Israel will get out of that at the Second Coming.

Then you will know that I am YHWH your Elohim. By virtue of what He does in history (Exod 6:7), literally obliterating all Israel's enemies, He demonstrates that He is faithful (Ezek 20:44). Faithful to His covenant promises to Israel. Faithful to you and me as well. This is the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant; the Land, the Seed, the Worldwide Blessing amplified in the Land Covenant, the Davidic Covenant and the New Covenant. They will all be fulfilled to Israel and to Judah in the Kingdom when the Messiah returns. So he says, **Dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain.** The Messiah will dwell personally, physically, literally as the King of kings and Lord of lords in His resurrection body in Jerusalem. **So Jerusalem will be holy,** Turn to Isa 4, Jerusalem and everything in Jerusalem will be **holy** in the Kingdom. This is a stupendous passage. Verse 2, "In that day the Branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth *will be* the pride and the adornment of the survivors of Israel. ³It will come about that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded for life in Jerusalem.

⁴When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and purged the bloodshed of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning, ⁵then the LORD will create over the whole area of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, even smoke, and the brightness of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory will be a canopy. ⁶There will be a shelter to *give* shade from the heat by day, and refuge and protection from the storm and the rain.” So, that’s the physical description of Jerusalem and the vicinity in the Millennium with this dome, so to speak over it, like a great sports stadium and obviously the Shechinah Glory, the fire and the flame. **And strangers will pass through it no more.** No foreigners, the land will be totally Israel’s land.

In conclusion what have we said. That there’s going to be a war, the War of Armageddon. That three demonic spirits which proceed from the counterfeit trinity; Satan, Antichrist and the False Prophet, will go forth to gather all the soldiers of the nations for the War. They will beat their plowshares into swords, their pruning hooks into spears. The weak will be deceived into thinking they are mighty. They will hasten together at Har-Mageddon to exterminate Israel. But at the same time the Lord is preparing His mighty one’s the angels to fight against the nations in a human-angelic conflict. Verse 12 the nations will come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat, Kidron Valley where the nations will be judged in a great extermination of the nations who go up against Israel such that the blood runs thick, four feet deep and 200 miles long from Armageddon to Bozrah. Multitudes of the nations in the valley of decision. In that day you will have the final blackout and then the Lord will roar from Zion causing a cosmic disturbance that restructures the whole universe. But the Lord will be a refuge for His people Israel and they will know that Yahweh is God. So God will fulfill all His covenant promises to Israel and they will inherit the land eternally. The question we all have to face is who is our refuge? Who is our stronghold? Have we placed our confidence in Christ as the sole way of salvation or are we still trusting in ourselves, our good works, money, fame, popularity or something? Christ alone is a refuge and a strength? In Him alone is salvation. Questions.

¹ Evil must not only come to the brink of extinction, it must come to extinction. For 1,000 years no war. Then a final anti-Semitic campaign headed by Satan himself under the rubric of Gog and Magog in Rev 20 which will be finally and totally extinguished by God from heaven resulting in the eternal separation of good and evil.



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