

Message #40**Revelation 16:13-16**

We learn in the book of Daniel that shortly before the Antichrist comes to his end, he will be living in Israel and he will hear some troubling rumors from the East that will greatly disturb him (Dan. 11:44-45). This will be news that will so disturb him that it catapults him to go on a final vendetta of wrath.

Undoubtedly one of the rumors that he will hear will be the Euphrates river is dried up and there is a massive military force that is headed right straight toward Jerusalem. He will hear that there are kings from the East who have joined together and are heading to Israel's land. We may assume that this will include China, Japan, India, Afghanistan, and perhaps North Korea.

What is fascinating about this is that Satan is confined to this earth so one would think there would be a unity among all of these godless people. The Antichrist is Satan's number one man, so one would think these other godless forces would be welcomed and not a threat. Satan is not a unifier; he is a destroyer. He is not a peace maker; he is a war monger. He does not like life; he loves death.

But this shows that Satan is not in charge of the Great Tribulation. God is in charge. There are two specific reasons why these forces from the East are coming to Israel:

Reason #1 - Because God is sovereignly working out the finale of His prophetic program.

God clearly predicts in many passages that He will gather all nations of the world together to destroy them (Ps. 2:1-2; Joel 3:9-21; Zechariah 14:1-3). The act of drying up the Euphrates (16:12) is simply a part of God's sovereign plan to fulfill this prophecy and make it easy for the nations to get there. God will direct these nations to the very spot where He will destroy them. This is His sovereign plan.

Reason #2 - Because God will sovereignly permit Satan to bring the nations from the East.
16:13-14

Notice carefully from **verse 13** that the satanic trinity is in this. All three are mentioned. The dragon, who is Satan, the beast who is the Antichrist and the false prophet are all in this.

They are all unclean. What they say is unclean and what they do is unclean. There is not a clean word that comes out of their mouths. In fact, they are unclean demons like frogs that go out of their mouths.

I think this frog imagery means a couple of things: **First, they are all unclean.** Their speech and demonic power is "slimy, unhealthy and ritually unclean" (Ex. 8:2-6; Lev. 11:10; Ps. 78:45; 105:30) (Buist Fanning, *Revelation Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*, pp. 420-421).

Second, they are being used by God for His sovereign purposes in destruction. Asaph uses the frog imagery when he says that God sent frogs out to demonstrate His power and remind His people that this was all part of God's sovereign plan to destroy the Egyptians (Ps. 78:45). In Psalm 105:30, the Psalmist uses it the same way.

So what we conclude from Scripture, when it says that the Satanic trio is a trio of unclean spirits speaking like frogs, is that God is sovereignly using the speech of this unclean demonic team to actually bring all people to this area so He can destroy them.

Satan is using his demonic forces to bring all nations to the valley of Megiddo to fight against God and Jesus Christ. The Antichrist is ruling the world and Satan and his forces are confined to this earth and demons will be involved in causing people to move against Israel; but this is happening because God will bring them all to destruction. **God will cause them to destroy themselves.**

According to **verse 14**, Satan and his demonic team will use signs and miracles to lure the nations of the east to this spot. In reality, Satan is luring them to their own destruction.

We have pointed this out many times; Satan is not a friend of anyone. It is God who wants the best for people, not Satan. Satan is out to destroy nations and individuals. Satan does not want anyone happy, healthy or holy. Satan does not want anyone fulfilled in life or to enjoy their life. This is why often those connected to Satan and demons end up dead. He wants people destroyed; he does not want them saved.

The specific driving motive that is stated in **verse 14** for this Satanic action is to gather up these nations and bring these nations all together to wage a war against God.

Notice the text says to wage a war against the great day of God, **THE ALMIGHTY**.

Satan knows he is waging war against "Almighty God."

The adjective "Almighty" (pantokratwr) comes from two Greek words.

The first is pantos, which refers to all possible ways, at all times and at all events.

The second word kratos refers to strength, power, and might at the ultimate master level.

By joining these two words together, what we have is a description of God that says He is the most powerful Being in existence, in all possible ways at all possible times and in every event and situation, who has complete dominant control (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 256; p. 336).

There is no being more powerful than God anywhere, at any time or in any circumstance.

Satan and his demons know this about God. In fact, they experienced the reality of this when Michael and his angels defeated Satan and his demons and cast them out of access to heaven (Rev. 12:7-9). So Satan and his demons actually know they cannot beat God and yet they gather the nations to go up to fight against God in a fight they know they will lose.

We learn a very significant point here about Satan and demons. **People who are Satanic and demonic do not think rationally or realistically or truthfully. Satanic and demonic people think emotionally, irrationally and fictitiously.**

Satanic and demonic people do not base decisions on careful thought, but on crazy feelings that do not make logical sense.

If Satan and his demons actually thought factually and truthfully about things, they would realize we are not going to beat Almighty God. They would realize we are going to lose. But they do not think in these terms.

Now this war will be **the war of the great day of God**. The Great day will be when Jesus Christ comes back and takes over the world so this will all happen shortly before that happens.

We know this is closely connected to the coming of Jesus Christ because of what is stated in verse 15.

Now we want to carefully analyze what the five main statements are in **verse 15**:

Statement #1 - Behold. 16:15a

This word “behold” means see this and look at this (*Ibid.*, p. 213).

Statement #2 - I am coming. 16:15b

The verb “I am coming” is a present tense, middle voice, indicative mood verb.

What this means is this:

It is a fact that Jesus Christ is coming (Indicative Mood).

It is a fact that He Himself will be coming (Middle Voice).

It is a fact that this futuristic event will happen in real, present time (Present Tense).

Jesus Christ is speaking and He is saying take a look at this because I am coming and I am going to take over the world.

Statement #3 - I am coming as a thief. 16:15c

This point must be kept in the context. When Jesus says He will come like a thief, it is near the end of the Great Tribulation and has nothing to do with the Church because the Church is not in the Great Tribulation.

When John used this image earlier in the Church Age in Revelation 3:3, it had a completely different meaning than it does here, although it did have to do with negative judgment. What it meant there was Christ would come to the church and bring about a judgment against individuals that would include weakness and sickness and death if the people did not respond to Him.

This warning of coming as a thief in Revelation 3 had nothing to do with what is being discussed here in the Tribulation.

We, who are believers in this Church Age, are not looking for Christ to come like a thief. What we are looking for is “the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ” at the Rapture. Paul said, “looking for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus” (Titus 2:13).

We are not looking for Jesus Christ to come as a thief; we are looking for Him to come in His glory in the clouds to be caught up to Him (I Thess. 4:13-18).

We are not looking for Christ to come as a thief; we are looking for Him to come in the sky as our deliverer and Savior.

The Apostle Paul uses the same imagery concerning Jesus Christ coming in the Great Tribulation as a thief in I Thessalonians 5:2. What Paul was using this imagery to prove to the Church was the “Day of the Lord,” which is connected to the Great Tribulation, had not occurred (I Thess. 5:4, 9).

Paul wanted those believers to understand that the Day of the Lord that features Jesus Christ coming like a thief was not something they needed to worry about because they had not been appointed to wrath.

So Paul’s use of Jesus coming as a thief precisely corresponds to this very moment in the Great Tribulation.

When Jesus says He is coming as a thief, what He means is that no one will expect Him to return and when He does return, there will be death, destruction and judgment.

Satan and his forces will be dominating the world and the powers will be on the move and no one will expect Jesus Christ to return and put an end to all of them.

Statement #4 - Blessed is the one who stays awake. 16:15d

The point of this is the one who will be blessed is the one who will be alert and awake to what is going on at this point in the Tribulation. The one who will be blessed on earth is the one who will realize what is happening and he keeps himself mentally and morally alert.

What this will mean is that this one is not in Jerusalem at this time, but fled the area. This one did not receive the mark of the beast. This one was following what the two prophets and 144,000 were teaching.

Statement #5 - Blessed is the one who keeps his clothes. **16:15e**

When Satan and his demons are confined to this earth, nudity will be the norm. Nudity and immorality will dominate the world and there will not be one person or law enforcement agency that will be able to stop it. Jesus Christ will have to stop it.

We learned before the halfway point of the Tribulation and before Satan was confined to this earth that “murder, sorcery, immorality and thievery” were dominating the world (Rev. 9:21).

Now that Satan and his demons are confined to this earth, it will become the worst it could ever possibly become. Depravity will reach its ultimate evil level until Jesus Christ stamps it out.

What Jesus says here is the one who will be blessed will keep his clothes on and not walk around naked in a shameful way before all to see. Most people will be doing this; the one who will be blessed will not.

As we near the Rapture of the Church, we may expect that more and more people will be drawn into immorality and nudity. Blessed are those who stay disciplined and maintain godliness.

In **verse 16** we learn that Satan and the Antichrist and false prophet and all the nations have a gathering point called in Hebrew “Har-Magedon.” In Greek it reads Armagedon (Armagedwn).

Now this area is the Mount of Megiddo area. There are two facts we want to see:

Fact #1 - What Har-Magedon means in Hebrew.

It is specifically stated that this place has a Hebrew name, which again shows Israel is in the crosshairs of all of this.

- 1) In Hebrew “Harm” (harmah) means destruction.
- 2) In Hebrew “Gedon” means army.

Combined, the meaning of **the Hebrew word means destruction or slaughter of an army**. This is going to be a major world war.

Fact #2 - Where Har-Magedon is located.

The O.T. location of this place is Megiddo. Megiddo is a proper noun used for both a city and valley. It was the place of some great O.T. battles.

Dr. C. I. Scofield observed that this was the place of Deborah's victory (Judges 4:10-24); Gideon's victory (Judges 6:33; cp. 7:1-25); Saul's defeat (I Sam. 31:1, cp. 29:1); and it will be the place of the last great battle against God (C. I. Scofield, *Scofield Reference Bible*, NASV, p. 352).

Megiddo is located east of the Jordan River in the Northeast portion of the Promised Land. The city of Megiddo is located about 70 miles north of Jerusalem and was "a strongly fortified and elevated" city. It is known today as modern Haifa.

The valley area is located about 50 miles north of Jerusalem. The valley is approximately 14 miles wide and 20 miles long. Napoleon called it "the most natural battlefield of the whole earth."

This will become "the" central location of many Armies during the Tribulation. This place is the very place that has been picked and prophesied by God. Nations will come from this place and God will slaughter them.

Kings of the whole world (Rev. 16:14) will go down at this slaughter. In Zechariah 12:11-14 we get information about how this will affect Israel. What ultimately will happen here is described in Revelation 19:17-21.

This world does not realize how dangerous Satan and his demons are and it does not realize how powerful God is.

No matter what is going on in the world, it is all under the umbrella of Almighty God. He is the One with whom people need to be concerned because in the end, He is the One who will win.