

73. The Book of Revelation—16:19-21

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(3-23-22)

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Tonight, in our study of the Book of Revelation we will be finishing Chapter 16.

As we have said, this Chapter contains the 7-Bowl Judgments—which are the last and most cataclysmic of all the previous judgments. These will lead directly to the return of Jesus Christ, the Battle of Armageddon, and the establishment of God's Kingdom upon the earth.

Before we get into the last few verses of Revelation 16—I'd like to go back and revisit something we talked about a couple of weeks ago in our study.

A couple of weeks ago, I raised the possibility that the events prophesied about in Ezekiel 38 and 39 could in fact come at the *end* of the Tribulation Period—and lead to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to rescue the Jews from the Antichrist and his armies and set up His Kingdom upon the earth (the Millennial Kingdom).

As I said then, I'm not saying this interpretation is the correct one—but it is a definite possibility.

I will say this once again, I definitely believe the events of Ezekiel 38 and 39 will happen *before* the Millennial Kingdom is established—and not at the end of the thousand-year reign of Christ as some think.

But let me start tonight by talking about the scenario that many good evangelical scholars and prophecy experts think is the way Ezekiel 38 and 39 will play out (unfold). Many good evangelical professors, pastors, and teachers believe that the battle presented in Ezekiel 38 and 39 will happen *before* the Antichrist rises to power and the 7-year Tribulation Period officially begins—just before or just after the Rapture of the Church.

In fact, they believe there is a nuclear component to the Ezekiel battle (as we mentioned a couple of weeks ago) that would actually *cause* the nations of the world to want and even push for a united earth (a global one-world government) so that this kind of thing never again happens (where the world is brought to the brink of nuclear annihilation).

Therefore, the Ezekiel 38 and 39 battle could be the very thing that ushers the Antichrist into power.

As I said a couple of weeks ago, the strange thing about this is that—if we are as close to these events taking place as we think we are—the 'elephant' in the room is—where is America?

Why isn't America clearly mentioned in Bible prophecy—after all we are the world's superpower?

Also, America is Israel's greatest friend and ally (that was up until the current administration came to power)—so where are we in the scenario presented in Ezekiel 38 and 39 which lists the nations that will come against Israel?

As we studied a couple of weeks ago, in Ezekiel 38 the Holy Spirit lists the nations of Russia, Iran, Northern Africa, and a confederation of Muslim nations that all come together to attack Israel—but why isn't America mentioned as coming to Israel's defense against these nations that attack her?

Now, when we studied this, we said that it could be we are absent because we are simply too weak and depleted militarily and financially due to wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and now Ukraine to help in any meaningful way to stop these invading forces into Israel—and therefore, we can only offer tepid denunciations against her enemies (Ezekiel 38:13).

Or it's possible that by this point in our history, like the Roman Empire, our nation could have rotted from within and collapsed in on itself because of rampant immorality, corruption, social chaos and overall demonic evil having so permeated and poisoned us.

Or it could be, given our current administration, we simply won't honor our treaty with Israel to help her in this battle because our leaders in those days (possibly this current administration) hate Israel and consider her as the evil occupier of Palestinian land and therefore see her defeat at the hands of her enemies a good thing.

Let me give you a few other possibilities as to why we don't see America listed in the Ezekiel battle against Israel:

- *A nuclear attack against us that so devastates us that we are too weak and incapable of coming to Israel's defense.*

Putin's crazy enough to send a nuclear missile or missiles our way from one of his nuclear submarines parked off the coast of Washington D.C. if he feels threatened enough by all the weaponry we are sending to Ukraine to use in their war against Russia (we are now in a proxy-war with Russia but that could soon escalate into a hot-war).

- *A nuclear missile detonated over the Eastern Seaboard that creates an EMP (Electro-Magnetic Pulse).*

This missile could also be launched from one of Russia's submarines off our East coast.

This would fry all the circuitry of everything that uses circuitry to operate (all utilities: water, gas, electric would be affected)—not to mention all business, banking, defense systems etc.) immediately plunging that part of the country back into the 1800's.

- *Because of rampant inflation and the falling US economy, the dollar is so weak and unstable that the nations of the world no longer trust it to be the world's reserve currency.*

This would mean that the nations of the world would turn to China, (the 2nd largest economy in the world) and make their currency (renminbi or yuan—pronounced: 'yoo-aan') to be the world's reserve currency. If that were to happen, the countries of the world would no longer purchase oil in US dollars (no more 'petro-dollars'), the result of this would be that the US economy would immediately be wiped out and America would overnight be plunged into the greatest depression it has ever seen reducing it to third-world status.

I'll give you one more possible scenario—one or more small tactical nukes (i.e., 'suitcase nukes') could be brought into one or more of our major cities and detonated reducing those cities to rubble and causing such internal chaos that America will be too busy trying to piece itself back together to help anyone else. (Talk about David Wilkerson's book 'The Vision')

If any one of those scenarios plays out it would be the end of America as the world's superpower—in fact, it would decimate America and leave it a fallen, destroyed shell of a country rendering it inconsequential on the world stage.

With America out of the way—the enemies of Israel (some of whom are mentioned in Ezekiel 38) could then be emboldened to attack them (fulfilling Ezekiel 38 and 39)—not realizing that God was on their side.

So far in our study of Chapter 16 we have covered the first 6 bowl judgments—

Seventh Bowl—The Greatest Earthquake Ever

Revelation 16:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"

As we said last time—even though this voice is not identified for us, I personally believe that it is the voice of none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself—the Righteous Judge of all the earth!

Jesus Christ, the great Judge of heaven and earth, announces that the judgment of the Great Tribulation is now concluded—**"It is done!"**

Remember, as we have said, if something in the future is an absolute certainty—it is often spoken of in the *past tense* by the writers of the New Testament (and here by the Lord Jesus Himself). Technically, all of the seal, trumpet and bowl judgments by this point in the Tribulation Period are done—all that is left is for Jesus to return to the earth to judge His enemies before He establishes His Kingdom.

Revelation 16:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.

This seems to be the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah—

Isaiah 24:19-20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ The earth is violently broken, The earth is split open, The earth is shaken exceedingly. ²⁰ The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, And shall totter like a hut; Its transgression shall be heavy upon it, And it will fall, and not rise again.

Revelation 16:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now the great city was divided into three parts...

A comparison with Revelation 11:8 clearly identifies the '**great city**' as Jerusalem.

The massive earthquake will **split** Jerusalem into **three parts**, beginning a series of geophysical alterations to the city and its surrounding region that will conclude when the Lord Jesus Christ returns. One of them will be that Jerusalem will be elevated, and the surrounding region flattened into a plain (Zechariah 14:10).

This will enhance Jerusalem in preparation for the Kingdom of God to be established with Jerusalem as its capital!

Revelation 16:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell...

Someone has said that *"God made the country—but man made the cities."*

There are those who regard all cities as godless places where sin and vice are the most rampant—and a lot of that is true.

Most of the major cities in the world are run by leftist, progressive thinking leaders who embrace godless ideologies like Marxism, Socialism and Communism—these are rebels against the true and living God—just like Cain and Enoch (and Nimrod who built a city and tower...Genesis 11).

In the Kingdom Age it could be that the only city will be Jerusalem—and the rest of the world will live in small rural towns ('Mayberrys') where everyone will know everyone else and the whole town will be family!

Revelation 16:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now the great city [Jerusalem] was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.

As the capital city of Antichrist's empire—Babylon will especially be made to drink the cup of the wine of God's fierce wrath.

The downfall of Babylon, mentioned here in passing, will be described at length in Chapters 17 and 18.

Revelation 16:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

The final effect of the earthquake, as noted above, is to prepare the earth for the millennial (one thousand year) reign of the Lord Jesus Christ.

To that end—the earth's topography will be drastically altered—'**every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.**' (verse 20)

Islands, which are undersea mountains, will disappear and the mountains on land will be flattened.

Henry M. Morris

"The gentle rolling topography of the world as originally created will be restored. No more will there be great inaccessible, uninhabitable mountain ranges or deserts or ice caps. The physical environment of the millennium will be, in large measure, a restoration of the antediluvian [pre-Flood] environment".

That may leave Jerusalem as the highest point on earth, making it a fitting throne for the Great King who will rule there during the Millennial Kingdom—

Jeremiah 3:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem...

Isaiah 52:13 (NASB)

¹³ Behold, My servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted.

Revelation 16:21 (NKJV)

²¹ And great hail from heaven fell upon men, *each hailstone* about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

Those who somehow escape the devastation caused by the earthquake (verse 18) will face another catastrophe—one unprecedented in human history. They will be pelted with '*huge hailstones*', each weighing

about a *talent*, that will hurtle down from heaven (signifying they come directly from God as a form of judgment) upon the earth and the ‘earth-dwellers’.

A Greek *talent* (a measure of weight not an ability) described the most weight a normal man could carry—anywhere from 90 to 135 pounds (usually estimated at about 100 pounds). The heaviest hailstones ever recorded weighed about 2 pounds—these will be fifty times heavier!

Sometimes people ask me, “*Will these hailstones be hot or cold?*”—in other words, ‘*fiery rocks*’ or huge ‘*chunks of ice*’?—Folks, at around 100 pounds each—does it really matter?!

In verse 9 of Revelation 16 we read how people on the earth keep *blaspheming* God for these judgments instead repenting and getting their lives right with Him.

In the Old Testament the penalty for blasphemy was stoning—so here God ‘stones’ the people of earth who worship the Antichrist, who have received his mark (signifying they belong ‘body and soul’ to him)—and blaspheme the God of Heaven.

Revelation 16:21 (NKJV)

²¹ And great hail from heaven fell upon men, *each hailstone* about the weight of a talent. **And men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.**

One author said—

“Incredibly, tortured humanity defiantly remains hardened against God. It is too late for these hardened sinners—they have sold their souls to Satan; they are totally committed to Antichrist’s blasphemous, idolatrous, anti-God system.”

Their end was prophesied back in Chapter 14—

Revelation 14:9-11 (NKJV)

⁹ ...“If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

After Chapter 16:21, the next chronological event that is prophesied is the one mentioned in Chapter 19:11. This will be where the true Christ, the Lord Jesus Christ, returns from heaven to earth and takes over the kingdoms of this world and fulfills the prophecy of Revelation 11:15—“**The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!**”

Many believe that the Church will be going through this entire period of judgment (the entire 7-year Tribulation Period)—but to the Church Paul wrote:

Titus 2:13 (NKJV)

¹³[the Church is] looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

If the Church was indeed going through the horrific seven years of catastrophic/cataclysmic judgments—this verse wouldn’t make any sense.

Revelation 16:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed *is* he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

This verse applies to all of us—right now! There is still time to escape what’s coming—

Revelation 3:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Hebrews 4:7 (NKJV)

⁷ again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "*Today,*" after such a long time, as it has been said: "*Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.*"

As you watch the news, you can’t help as a Christian to feel that God is getting ready to “*wrap it up!*”—Are you ready!?

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Want to know more? Click [here](#).

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