

## **Armageddon Revelation 16:12-21**

12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. 13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

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." 16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

### **There are two great battles that are going to happen in the last days both involving the nation of Israel**

A) We are potentially seeing the stage being set for one of those battles in the news today.

B) If you have been paying attention to the news you have heard the reports that Iran is gearing up to attack Israel.

C) And if you are a Student of Bible prophecy - you hear the names Iran and Israel in the same sentence - 1) you know significant

### **In Ezekiel 38 - we read that Persia which is modern day Iran will come against Israel in battle**

A) And joining them will be the following nations Magog" - Russia,

- Meshech and Tubal and Gomer are modern-day Turkey
- Ethiopia is modern-day Sudan
- Egypt
- Libya

B) For years we have heard Iran make threats against Israel - their current supreme leader Ali Khamenei, stated in 2000 that "the cancerous tumor called Israel must be uprooted from the region"

Former Iranian president Ahmadinejad's in 2005 called for Israel to be "wiped off the face of the map"

And two weeks ago Ali Khamenei, commanded Iranian forces to launch a "*direct*" attack against Israel,

But up until recently - Iran's efforts against Israel have all been indirect attacks -

A) They have been employing the terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah- dirty work.

B) It has been well documented that Iran has Supplying Hezbollah and Hamas with Weapons 1) and training - for years

C) We know that Iran was very connected to the October 7<sup>th</sup> attack on Israel

1) And we also know that Russia has for years been supplying Iran with tech - weapons and training

So you could say that Russia and Iran are joined at the hip.

A) Latest reports indicate that Russia has as many as six War ships in the Mediterranean

B) And a couple of Attack Submarines

C) Then we actually saw Iran in April fire some 300 missiles at Israel - first direct attack

So is what we are watching right now moving in the direction of Ezekiel 38?

A) Maybe - Watch and see.

B) What is interesting to me about the battle of Ezekiel 38 -

1) and why I believe that it could happen before the rapture - Or shortly thereafter is this:

C) We Saw this past week in our Wednesday night study and we will see it again in Revelation 17-18 1) that when the Anti-Christ comes on the scene -

D) He is going to form a one world economic system - and a one world religious system -

When I look at the landscape of religion today in the World -

A) There are two main groups that would resist a one world religion - Christianity - and Islam

B) The interesting thing about the nations mentioned in Ezekiel 38 that join with Iran is this:

1) Aside from Russia all those other nations are Muslim Nations - following Islam

B) Christianity and Islam probably the two biggest faith groups in the world today!

So it would seem logical that for the Anti-Christ to put this one world religion into play -

A) Something has to happen to these two groups

B) Well the rapture takes care of the church - we are gone - to resist him

C) What about Islam? -

When the Battle happens that Ezekiel 38 describes - God is going to fight for Israel -

A) Iran and Russia and all of these nations that join them are going to be wiped out -

B) Clearly Divine intervention - I think that when God intervenes on behalf of Israel

C) And Iran, and these other Muslim nations are destroyed

1) It is going to render a death blow to Islam

D) It will rock the faith of the Muslim world.

So we as we are watching the events in the Middle East unfold -

A) Pay attention to Russia and these other nations

B) Now as a church we stand with Israel -

C) When I say that I want to be clear that does not mean we agree with everything Israel does

1) It is not as if Israel can do no wrong - By in large Israel is a country that is not follow God

D) Even those who are orthodox - are a small Minority

1) and they don't believe that Jesus is the Messiah

But most of the Jewish people though familiar with their Jewish religious heritage are extremely secular

A) Very Self-Reliant people

B) So why do we as a church stand with Israel?

1) Answer - because God stands with Israel -

Quiz:

**Who am I speaking about who am I referring to?**

1. Without a biological miracle in the womb of his mother his birth would be impossible.
2. He was declared to be the son of God.
3. He was taken to Egypt to preserve his life.
4. When he returned to his land Israel, he was despised and hated.
5. He was bloodied and beaten and put to death by the Romans
6. But after 3 days he came back to life again.
7. And he will ever live and die no more.

Whom am I speaking of?

A) Now I think most of you would say - well of course you are speaking of Jesus - and you would be right

B) All of those things are true of Jesus

C) But they are also true of the nation of Israel

Consider: **#1 Without a biological miracle in the womb of his mother his birth would be impossible.**

A) Abraham's wife Sarah was barren - she couldn't have children - but the Lord performed a miracle in her womb - at 75 yrs old

B) She gave birth to a Son - Isaac - that would be the beginning of what would become the nation of Israel

**#2 He was declared to be the son of God.**

A) Israel is referred to as the son of God in the OT Exodus 4:22 Hosea 11:1

**#3 He was taken to Egypt to preserve his life.**

A) When Jacob who was renamed Israel - was facing starvation from a famine - he sent his sons to Egypt for food.

B) There the Sons of Jacob discovered that their long lost brother Joseph whom they sold into Slavery 1) had become the right hand man to Pharaoh -

C) Joseph could have taken out vengeance on his brothers instead showed grace -

1) He called for them to come to Egypt and live Rescued from the Famine

D) Jacob his sons and their families came to Egypt - there were 120 of them in all

E)The people of Israel stayed in Egypt for 400 yrs - and grew to become a nation of over 2 million people

1)When Moses was raised up to lead them out

#### **#4 When he returned to his land Israel, he was despised and hated.**

A)As Israel returned to the land that God had promised to Abraham -

B)But they were despised and hated by the people of the land - Canaanites

#### **#5 He was bloodied and beaten and put to death by the Romans**

A)They would eventually be beaten and put to death by the Romans in AD 70 -driven out -

B)the nation of Israel ceased to exist at that point

1)In 135 AD Rome changed the name of the land to Palestine

#### **#6 But then he came back to life again.**

A)For 2000 years Israel ceased to exist as a nation - Ezekiel the prophet spoke of dry bones coming to life

B)It happened After 2000 years on May 14<sup>th</sup> 1948 - the nation of Israel was reborn

C)Isaiah the prophet asked the question can a nation be born in a day -

1)Answer is Yes - it happened to Israel

#### **#7 And he will ever live and die no more.**

A)God has a grand plan for that land

B)And that is made very clear in the text before us today in Revelation 16

#### **C)What see before us in this passage today is another great battle - in fact this is the final battle**

D)The Anti-Christ and his forces from the world -

1)are gathered together against the People of God in the Valley of Megiddo

E)But Jesus and the host of Heaven intervene

1)Consider this upcoming battle today.

#### **The Set up for the Battle of Armageddon.**

12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so

that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.

A)Interesting the Great River Euphrates is going to dry up.

B)The Euphrates River has been one of the most important rivers throughout human history.

1)Along with the Tigris River, it makes up the cradle of civilization, known as the Fertile Crescent.

C)At it's height - the Great River Euphrates - was 1300 miles long - 30feet deep in some places

1)300 ft wide in many places

D)The River has been a vital source of fresh water in a very arid part of the world,

1)serving over 23 million people.

Now People would read this verse about it drying up and say - that is never going to happen

A)But today it is actually happening: There are several reasons it is happening - I will not take the time to go into today.

B)Levels are dangerously low and the concern is that the river will dry up completely by 2040.

C)Our text tells us that an Angel speeds up that process - during the tribulation time.

1)The Euphrates will be dried up

The Dried up river -creates a unique pathway

A)For the Kings of the east to travel to the Valley of Megiddo in Israel -

B)Who are the Kings of the East? A survey of 100 commentaries on the book of Revelation

1)yields 50 different interpretations of who the kings of the east are.

C)So Who are they? They are, here it is, here's the answer: the kings of the east. ☺

D)Ok - the most popular idea is that this is a Coalition of Forces from Japan and China

Now Why on earth would China and Japan want to be a part of this battle. -

A)I think the next verses give us the answer to that Question

13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, Satan out of the mouth of the beast, Anti-Christ and out of the mouth of the false prophet. Anti-Christ - religious leader - points to and builds up the reputation of the Anti-Christ - the unholy trinity - saw on this past Wednesday night -

14 For they- the frogs are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

What a bazaar Vision - A Dragon - these two beast -  
A) Slimy frogs coming out of their mouths that are really demons -

B) It's like a bad pizza nightmare or something.

C) This passage indicates that the Antichrist and the false prophet, inspired by demonic activity,  
1) demons coming from Satan,

D) will influence the leaders of the world with the words of the mouth,  
1) and by miraculous signs and wonders.

E) Go to Megiddo - attack Israel - this will be Demonic influence at an all-time high

V.16 identifies the place where this battle will take place-16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

A) Armageddon is from two Hebrew words "Har" meaning – "hill country"

B) "Megiddo" – a Massive valley in the nation of Israel- Pic

C) The Valley of Megiddo also known as the Jezreel Valley extends from the Mediterranean Sea  
1) at the city of Haifa, all along the Carmel Mountain Range to the Jordan River valley

C) Many battles have already taken place in this valley

- Deborah and Barak – Judges 4-5
- Gideon over the Midianites (Judges 7)
- Josiah was slain there by the Egyptians (II Kings 23:29-30)
- The Assyrians went through this valley to conquer Israel

- Babylon went through this valley to conquer Judah
- Many Crusade battles happened in this valley
- Napoleon marched through this valley on his way from Egypt to Syria

D) In fact as he sat overlooking this valley Napoleon is quoted as saying –  
"if ever there was a place where the final war of mankind should be fought, it should be fought in this valley" – Napoleon Bonaparte 1799 –

So when the 6<sup>th</sup> bowl is poured out -

A) Satan and the Anti-Christ will draw the nations of the world into this Valley - final battle

B) These forces are coming against Israel but in reality they are coming against God!

Notice Chapter 17:13: "They are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast," that is, these nations, "These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."  
Satan, knowing Jesus' Second Coming is close at hand

A) He knows his end is near - comes with one last ditch effort -

B) And through deception of the Antichrist, the false prophet,

1) brings the military might of the world together,

C) gathered in Israel, and thinking that they're going to overcome God.

D) Psalm 2 anticipates this. It says, the kings of the earth set themselves, the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against His Christ and they say let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us.

E) We're gonna fight God! God thinks He's so big, wait till He sees us!

"He who sits in the heavens shall laugh." – Psalm 2:4

A) "Oh look at these people, they are turning their weapons toward me, what will I do?"

B) Well we see what He will do, we see amplified in Ch. 19- turn there 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and

behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, (feasting time) 18 that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great." 19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. 20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

C)Here is what we learn in Revelation 19 - this isn't going to be much of a battle at all. -

1)Jesus is going to Slaughter them - swiftly and completely. -

Learned in Ch.14 on Wednesday another picture of this battle

1)The blood would flow like a river up to the horses bridle for 180 miles

E)Interesting that the Valley of Megiddo is approximately 185 square miles.

Guys this is going to be a blood bath like the world has never see before.

A)Gruesome and ugly - the Vultures will feast on the dead bodies for a long time.

B)Now I want you to notice v.15 again. I purposely skipped over that verse.

C)In the middle of this narrative - leading up to this final battle- John Stops and Jesus speaks

D)Between the 6<sup>th</sup> bowel and the 7<sup>th</sup> Bowel there is a pause in the narrative

But understand his words are not for the people who will be on the earth at the time all this happens.

A)The interruption is for us - the readers - it is a reminder.

B)Jesus says: 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."

C)Behold I am coming as a Thief! - Christ's coming is often compared to a thief?

Why a thief?

A)Because it speaks of suddenness, unpreparedness, and danger.

B)You say well that's not very comforting. The point is this. He comes as a thief, not for believers, this is as far as unbelievers are concerned.

C)He never comes as a thief for believers. Listen to what Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5: you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night but you, brethren, are not in darkness that this day would overtake you as a thief.

Note that phrase the Day of the Lord - not speaking of a Day but a time frame a period of time

A)Starts with the rapture and includes the tribulation time and the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus.

B)But that day shouldn't overtake us as a thief - because he comes to us as a Bridegroom, not a thief.

C)We're waiting and watching for Him, but it will take the earth completely off guard.

1)It's sudden. It's where they're unprepared.

Jesus says to us here in Revelation 16:15 Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”

A)YOU Watch. Be on guard. - like a Soldier

B)In ancient times, soldiers slept with their clothes on. They didn't put their PJ's on and go to bed. Why?

1)Because if they were attacked in the middle of the night, not only would they look goofy, but they'd be dead.

C)You need your clothes on, your sword at your side, your helmet nearby, so you can get up and fight.

1)Shameful to not be ready.

1 John chapter 2:28 and now little children abide in Him that when He appears we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

A)How do you get to a place of confidence and not be ashamed?

B)Well are you living for Him? Are you watching for Him?

C)Every Christian is waiting for Him but not all Christians are watching for Him. Is there a difference? Yes Big difference

D)Reminded of a story A group of sailors were out to sea and they were coming back home after several days and as they were coming into the dock, the skipper put his binoculars up

1)and was looking and said, I see Bill's wife and I see Joe's wife and Frank's wife and George's wife

But there was one guy on board and he didn't see his wife.

A)They came to the shore, these men embraced their wives,

B)and the guy who couldn't find his family rushed home, wondering if something was wrong.

C)He came in the door and his wife said, honey, so glad to see you. I've been waiting for you.

D)He said, you've been waiting for me but my buddies wives were down at the dock watching for them.

Many wait for Jesus Christ but are you watching?

A)Do you look in anticipation like a bride would be waiting for the bridegroom?

B)Behold he is coming - Jesus can come and will come at any time - are you waiting and watching?

Now I want to consider one more thing before we go today.

A)We will look at the 7<sup>th</sup> bowl in detail on Wednesday night

B)Where we will see that with the final judgment the earth is as we know it is completely destroyed -

C)but let me just read a couple of verses before we go today

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!”

Finished 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.

C)There is a phrase there in 16:17 that is familiar did you notice it? “It is done!” Or It is Finished

Does that phrase ring a bell in your mind and heart - Jesus from the Cross - It is Finished

A)That phrase is key to the Armageddon story

B)Every person has a choice - as to whether they are going to be a part of this great battle -

1)the blood bath at Megiddo

C)Or be Covered by the blood of Jesus at Calvary.

**MT Megiddo or MT Calvary - Your Choice - Compare**

A)At Megiddo - these armies are coming against the Lord - the Lord rides in and we are with him.

B)The armies of the World turn their weapons on Him.

C)How could this be we ask

Well the same thing happened at Calvary

A)Those at the cross yelled we will not have this man rule over us - Crucify him they shouted

B)They turned on Jesus the son of God and Crucified him

#2 Both deal with God's Wrath

A)At Megiddo - God's wrath is being poured out on a world that has turned against him

B)At Calvary - God's wrath was poured out - not on a world that had rejected him - but on his Son

1)Paying the price for our sins - taking our punishment

#3 Both were blood baths -

A)At Armageddon the blood from those slaughtered will flow for 180 miles

B)At MT Calvary we see a blood stained Cross and a Savior who was disfigured beyond recognition -

C)Told by his blood we are saved - stripes we are healed

D)What can wash away my sins .....blood of Jesus

#4 Both there is an earthquake

A)Megiddo it is the Final blow

B)At Calvary - The Veil is rent in to

**Choice today:**

**A)Stand on your own - be a part of the Blood bath of Armageddon**

**B)Or stand with Jesus and be covered and cleansed by His blood.**