

REVELATION 16 - LESSON 21

REVELATION 16:12-21

God has predicted a 7 year time frame of cataclysmic natural disasters. Known as Great Tribulation.

All of the disaster and death is truly overwhelming to process.

However, God wants people to turn to Him and it's the final call.

That's pretty standard reaction in us. When adversity comes we either run TO God or FROM God.

So tribulation is:

1) 7 SEALS

2) 7 TRUMPETS

3) 7 BOWLS

We are at the place of the 7 Bowls being poured out. We are at 6 and will cover 7 tonight.

Revelation 15:7

4 living creatures give to the 7 angels each an assigned bowl.

They pour out of the bowls and each pouring initiates another of God's judgments.

These are the last of God's judgements and we're about to get out of the Tribulation period.

Brings us to the Battle of Armageddon. This happens in the Valley of Megiddo with the forces gathered there.

Rev 16:12-16

DRAGON = SATAN

BEAST = ANTICHRIST

FALSE PROPHET

*Armageddon appears only one time in Bible, Rev.16:16.

*From Har Megiddo (Hill of Megiddo = "Hill of Slaughter")
Along Jezreel Valley.

*Gathering place for final world battle against Israel and the God of Israel.

We have lots of fascinations about Armageddon, but only found 1 time in the Bible.

When the demons are released they will entice Kings from the East to come and attack Israel.

It's demonic inspired antisemitism against Israel.

It is where the Euphrates river has dried up and enables the armies from the east to come in (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, China, Korea) across Euphrates that is dried up that used to form a natural barrier.

The warfare itself doesn't take place at "Megiddo" but they march down toward Jerusalem.

Valley of Jehoshaphat = “The valley where Yahweh shall judge”.

The Kidron Valley will be a blood bath to where blood rises to horse’s bridle.

These nations gather at “Megiddo” which is 57 miles from Jerusalem and march down Jezreel Valley into Kidron Valley and the battle happens in and around Jerusalem.

Zechariah 14:1-4

So Zechariah sees in his day what the Lord says will transpire on that day in the valley Kidron.

There is a great debate about how Ezekiel 38 fits with Revelation 16.

Ezekiel 38:1-6

Ezekiel has a vision of a major battle against Israel as well. So is it Armageddon or something else?

GOG = is a location, not a title. It can also be translated "prince" or "czar".

In this particular case here "Gog" is the prince over "Magog".

Josephus, Herodotus (Jewish Historians) all see the region of Gog as the ancient land of the "Scythians" - North of Black and Caspian Seas. So it's actually Russia.

Persia is the ancient term for Iran.

In fact, until 1935, Iran was called Persia.

Until the Iranian Revolution of 1979, Iran was actually an ally of Israel.

We are beginning to see the alliances coming together before our very eyes.

Ezekiel says Russia will lead and Iran will be there.

Ethiopia - 45% Sunni Muslim

Libya - 97% Sunni Muslim (upper Nile region)

Gomer - Eastern Europe (Germany, Poland)

Togarmah - Turkey, Armenia, Georgia

It's the Nations to the North and all these converge and in Ez. 38 God steps in to judge those that come against Israel.

Ezk 38:18-23 - Compare that to Rev 16:16-21

Comparison Ez 38 to Rev 16

EZ 38

REV 16

God's wrath (19)

God's wrath (19)

Great earthquake (19)

Great earthquake (18)

Mountains thrown down (20)

Mountains not found (20)

Pestilence (22)

Plagues (21)

Great hailstones (22)

Great hailstones (21)

These may not be 2 separate wars but one long campaign that culminates with Armageddon.

It seems as though for 7 years, armies are forming revelation from the north and west.

Rev 16 speaks of nations coming from the east.

What starts in Ez 38 at the beginning of tribulation builds and culminates with other armies joining in Armageddon.

So what starts at the beginning of tribulation could culminate at the end of tribulation.

It's interesting that the second coming of Jesus whether at Rapture or Return, both happen as "Thief in the night".

- 1) Secretively (I Thess 5:2-4)

2) Suddenly (11 Peter 3:10-12)

He comes like a thief but we should not be caught off guard, because we should be ready.

Vs 17 - 21

1) Splits Jerusalem into 3 parts.

2) Topography of Earth Changes.

3) 100 pound hail stones fall upon people.

Vs 19 - "The great city"

I think great city = Jerusalem - because all these other things are happening in Jerusalem.

Ezekiel tells us later a river emerges when the city splits under temple mount and it will run down all the way to the dead sea and make it fresh water.

Vs 20

Ez 33:11

