

“ARMAGEDDON!”

Revelation 16:8-16

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INTRODUCTION

Where is Armageddon? [Show some pictures]

I. THE STUBBORNNESS OF SINNERS (8-11)

A. The Fourth Bowl (8-9)

1. The Object Affected: The Sun
2. The Effect Produced: Scorching with fierce heat (8b-9a)
3. The resulting behavior: Further blasphemy—unrepentance
 - God has “the authority” over these plagues—this they acknowledge.
 - They do not acknowledge His justice and wisdom and love in sending the plagues.
 - They refuse to “give Him glory—rather they continue to give glory to the beast and the dragon who guides him!

B. The Fifth Bowl (10-11)

1. The object affected: The throne of the Beast—his power and authority and the realm over which he rules.
2. The effect produced: His kingdom is darkened
 - Spiritual darkness controls his kingdom.
 - God gives them literal darkness to accompany it!
3. The resulting behavior:
 - a. Gnawing their tongues—pitch darkness can be “painful”; in addition, they continued to suffer the agonizing pain of the sores of v. 2.
 - b. Further blasphemy: of the “God of Heaven” who has control over all the Earth
 - Yet they mock and blaspheme Him!
 - They are more concerned about their comfort than righteousness.
 - They are concerned about the agenda of humanism.
 - God’s will and glory are not their concern.
 - c. Unrepentance: their deeds are unchanged
 - Note that repentance means a change of mind.
 - However, this change of mind must be accompanied by a change of behavior.

II. THE SEDUCTION OF SATAN (12-16)

A. The Sixth Bowl

1. The Object Affected (Euphrates River)
2. The Effects Produced
 - Waters Dried up
 - Way prepared for the Kings coming from the East

B. The Evil Messengers: Seducing spirits (see I Tim. 4:1))

1. Their Origin: the Unholy trinity
 - Dragon—Satan
 - Beast—Political leader, Antichrist
 - False Prophet—Religious leader
2. Their description: Like frogs
 - Ugly, distortion of sin, repulsive nature, slimy and slippery in relation to truth and right.

- Persians saw the frog as a double of Ahriman, god of evil and one who brought plagues.
 - For Egyptians, frog was the symbol of Heqt, goddess of resurrection and fertility.
 - To the Jews such gods/goddesses are **demons**.
3. Their Identity: Demonic spirits
 4. Their Powers: performing signs/miracles [the text does not say that the “signs” are fake]
 5. Their destination: to the kings of the entire world.
 6. Their Goal: To gather all the armies of the Earth together to War against God.
 - Called “the war of the Great Day of God”—great because it is truly **the war to end all wars!**
 - This is the “day” of God’s total victory; of his dissolution of the powers of darkness both human and spiritual.
 - It is also great because Righteousness will be established upon Earth.
 - The God who fights this war is the “**Almighty**”; earth’s armies *really have no chance*.
 7. Their Place: “Har-Magedon”—Armageddon or literally “Hill of Megiddo.”

III. THE VIGILANCE OF SAINTS (15)

- A. The need for Vigilance: “I am coming like a thief.”
 - Unexpectedly, most are unprepared.
 - Harmful results for most.
- B. The Blessing for Vigilance
 - Third of the seven “beatitudes” in Revelation.
 - The vigilant stay awake.
- C. The Results of Vigilance
 1. Garments are kept clean and presentable to enter in the King’s presence.
 2. Spiritual nakedness apart from the provision of Christ is not seen.
 3. Men do not see his shame due to being unprepared and undressed in Christ’s righteousness.

CONCLUSION

The wickedness of the Earth is profuse, and will become increasingly virulent as we come closer to the end. The forces of evil become more openly antagonistic to God and more openly corrupt and resistant to divine influence.

These judgments of God are violent and pervasive just as are the wicked deeds of the world rulers and their followers. However, judgment does not result in repentance—only more adamant resistance. Somehow the world rulers think that with numbers—the forces of the entire world, they can overcome the Almighty!
How foolish! This last attempt will prove no more successful than any of the former.

GOD WILL WIN; MAN WILL LOSE—YOU HAD BETTER MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE ON GOD’S SIDE!