

**REVELATION 16:12-21**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Revelation chapter 16 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

In our study last week, we began looking at Revelation chapter 16 or the start of the seven bowl judgments being poured out upon a Christ rejecting world!

God's judgments are real, this is not a joke and yet, many today laugh at the idea of God judging the world. Even Christians have come to the belief that life will just continue on, a kind of uniformitarianism.

That is what Peter warned us about in II Peter 3:3-7, as he wrote, **“knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.’ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”**

In other words, people, even some Christians or so-called Christians, will come to believe that life will continue on, no cataclysmic events, and the problem for them is they **“willfully”** forgot the earth's history and what God has done in the past.

Did you notice that?

They “**willfully**” forgot! It is not that they did not have the information, they just chose to ignore the information that was given to them. And Peter reminds them of another time when people ignored the warning of the coming judgment of God.

That was at the time prior to the flood. And Peter tells us that this judgment came just as the final judgment of God upon a Christ rejecting world will come, not might!

People love to deny what God has said in His Word, or they ignore what God has said and just focus on one aspect of God, His love. They ignore His righteous judgment, and it is God’s righteous judgment that is coming, just as it came during the flood!

God will not lose His cool, He will not act in an unrighteous way. His judgment is fair, and it is going to be complete!

Let me share some Bible verses to show you that God’s judgments are righteous, they are fair.

First, in Psalm 9:8 we are told, “**He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.**”

God is going to judge this world and when His judgment comes forth, it will be done in righteousness. Man will get what he deserves, not less and not more.

Also, in II Peter 2:9 we are told, “**then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.**”

God does not judge the righteous but the unrighteous.

And in Revelation 16:5-7 we are told, **“And I heard the angel of the waters saying: ‘You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, Because You have judged these things. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due.’ And I heard another from the altar saying, ‘Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.’”**

Again, we see that God’s judgments are fair, they are true, and they are righteous!

Now for some, they believe that they are good and thus, they will not be judged.

The problem with that is that the Bible tells us that none are good, not even one. The Bible tells us that all have sinned, every one of us, and fallen short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:10, 21)

But many have a problem with the Bible. And they determine what is true and what is false not according to what the Bible has to say, but how they feel. Listen to what Os Guinness wrote,

*Countless “Christians” today believe . . . “because it works” (pragmatism), because they “feel it is true in their experience” (subjectivism), because they sincerely believe it is true “for them” (relativism), and so on . . . The Christian faith is not true because it works; it works because it is true. It is not true because we experience it; we experience it – deeply and gloriously – because it is true.*

- Os Guinness, Time for Truth, p. 58

The Christian faith, and for that matter, the Word of God, is true and we must trust it from the beginning – **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”** to the end, **“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”** (Genesis 1:1, Revelation 22:20-21)

God is the creator, He created all life, everything and when man sinned, God came to save man from His sin, which He has done, and He is coming back to judge this earth. And we experience this life in Christ because it is – ***TRUE!***

In the first of these seven bowl judgments we saw **“a foul and loathsome sore [that] came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped the image.”** Revelation 16:2.

The second bowl judgment affected life in the sea, **“and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.”** Revelation 16:3.

The third bowl judgment affected the fresh water supply, and they became blood!

The fourth bowl judgment affected the sun and **“men were scorched with great heat and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.”** Revelation 16:9.

And we saw in the fifth bowl judgment darkness cover the land, **“and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain.”** Revelation 16:10.

In regard to these last judgments, remember what John said back in Revelation 15:5-8, **“After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever. The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.”**

This is it, as that seventh bowl is poured out, the righteous judgment of God, His wrath being poured out upon a Christ rejecting world will be complete!

Now, as unfair as this seems, it is not, as I have said. Man, apart from Christ is only getting what he deserves, nothing more, nothing less.

Thus, we saw two angels proclaiming that God’s judgment is righteous, it is fair and like I have said, out of the mouth of two witnesses the matter is established! (Revelation 16:5-7)

This evening we will be looking at the sixth and seventh bowl judgments here in Revelation chapter 16 as we finish up this chapter tonight.

Then, as we move into Revelation chapters 17-19, we see more details of what is going to happen during this period of time known as the Tribulation Period. And it is there in Revelation chapter 19 we see the return of Jesus Christ to put down man’s rebellion against Him, we call it the battle of Armageddon!

With that said, let’s begin reading in Revelation chapter 16, starting in verse 12 and see what the Lord has for us this evening as we study His Word.

**REVELATION 16****VERSE 12**

We saw the Euphrates River mentioned back in Revelation chapter 9 with the unleashing of the sixth trumpet judgment.

There in Revelation chapter 9 we saw four demonic angels released and they will kill a third of the population of the earth as they go forth with their 200 million demonic army!

Here in the sixth bowl judgment God causes the waters of the Euphrates River to dry up, but why?

What is the purpose of these waters being dried up?

John tells us that these waters are dried up so the Kings from the east might pass through.

As we are going to see, God is preparing things for this last great battle, as the nations of the world gather together to fight against God.

There are a couple of points I would like to make regarding this verse before we move on.

First of all, the Euphrates River is not only the longest river in the Middle East, but it is also the most significant.

You see, this river was the boundary between the holy land and Asia to the east.

Remember what the Lord told Joshua, **“Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.”** Joshua 1:3-4.

Also, this River runs for some 1,800 miles beginning on the slopes of Mount Ararat (located in modern day Turkey) and it flows all the way to the Persian Gulf, where it empties into.

It has a width that ranges from 300 to 1200 feet and its average depth is 30 feet. Thus, for an army to pass through, these waters would have to be dried up, you couldn't put millions of soldiers on boats and float them across! That would take too long, and it just would not work!

How is God going to do this?

It is possible He will use very natural means, like a dam. Today there is the Ataturk dam, which is located at the headwaters of the Euphrates River that could stop the flow of this river.

Or God can supernaturally dry up this River to allow the Kings from the east to pass through.

And this is also a possibility. It is possible that the intense heat in the fourth bowl judgment could melt the snow and ice caps on Mount Ararat and the heat could also dry up the river so that it just stops flowing. That is very possible!

Listen to how one writer sums this up for us. He wrote,

By the time the sixth bowl is poured out, the Euphrates will be very different than it is today or has ever been.

The blazing heat from the sun associated with the fourth bowl will melt the snow and the ice cap on Mount Ararat. That will vastly increase the volume of water in the Euphrates, causing massive damage and flooding along its course.

The bridges spanning the river will surely be destroyed.

Thus, the reason for the sixth bowl becomes apparent. As the angel dumped his bowl, the Euphrates's water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east.

The eastern armies will need to cross the Euphrates to reach their ultimate destination - Armageddon in the land of [Israel].

God's drying up of the Euphrates is not an act of kindness toward the kings from the east, but one of judgment. They and their armies will be entering a deadly trap.

The evaporation of the Euphrates will lead them to their doom, just as the parting of the Red Sea led to the destruction of the Egyptian army.

Why they will make the daunting journey that will take them to their doom, through the drought, scorching heat, darkness, and their painful sores, is stated in vv. 13-14.

- John MacArthur, Revelation 16:12-16

And we will get to that reason in a few minutes why they are gathering in this valley!

The next thing we need to look at here is this. Who are these Kings?

That phrase, "**kings from the east**" is better-translated the "**kings of the rising sun.**"

And historically speaking, they refer to China and Japan.

Henry Morris gives us this insight. He wrote,

*But there are great nations in the east as well—China, Japan, India, and many others. These are every bit as antichristian as the nations in other parts of the world. For ages they have been dominated by religions (Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, and others) which are fundamentally evolutionary religions. That is, they all envision an eternal universe, with no concept of a transcendent, omnipotent, personal God who created all things. Their emphasis is solely on present behavior. To them history consists mostly of interminable cycles, without beginning or ending.*

*Associated with these pantheistic systems was (and is) always the worship of spirits. Whether these are understood as spirits of ancestors or as the spirits of trees and other natural objects, such worship is in reality worship of demons, or fallen angels. Such religions thus are also commonly associated with idolatry.*

*Thus eastern religion whatever specific form it may assume in a particular time or place is essentially the same old worship of idols which God's prophets continually condemned*

– Henry Morris

So this massive army, millions of soldiers are going to gather together in this valley called Megiddo, but why? What draws them into this battle? John is going to tell us.

#### VERSES 13-14

Let's first deal with these spirits that are like frogs. That is a strange concept but to the Jew, frogs were unclean, they were repulsive.

I don't think that is the issue here. I think it plays along the lines of what the Egyptians worshiped, a frog goddess!

You see, God brings judgment on the gods of this world!

And notice what they are doing. These demons are sent forth from the mouth of Satan, the Antichrist and the false prophet!

And what is their mission?

They are calling the Kings of the earth and the people of the whole world to ***“Go to Megiddo! Go to Megiddo!”***

Think of it like this.

These demons are nothing more than mouthpieces for this unholy trinity and the ultimate purpose is to gather the nations together to war against God, against His people.

They will try to stop the Lord from coming, from setting up His Kingdom.

Foolish, yes, but they will still try!

In his commentary on the book of Revelation, J. Vernon McGee quotes J. A. Seiss regarding these frogs or unclean spirits that come forth from this false trinity.

This is what he wrote, *“They are spirits; they are ‘unclean spirits,’ that are ‘demon spirits,’ they are sent forth into activity by the Dragon Trinity; they are the elect agents to awaken the world to the attempt to abolish God from the earth; and they are frog-like in that they come forth out of the pestiferous quagmires of the universe, do their work amid the world’s evening shadows, and creep, and croak, and fill the ears of the nations with their noisy demonstrations, till they set all the kings and their armies of the whole earth in enthusiastic commotion for the final crushing out of the Lamb and all His powers. As in chapter 9, the seven Spirits of God and of Christ went forth into all the earth to make up and gather together into one holy fellowship the great congregation of the sanctified: So these spirits of Hell go forth upon the kings and potentates of the world, to make up and gather together the grand army of the Devil’s worshipers.”*

I think he makes his point very clear.

Is he a little dramatic?

I don’t think so, for these demonic spirits are exactly what J. A. Seiss says. These ugly, diabolical creatures will go forth and pollute the world with their evil and to gather the Kings of the whole earth and the people of the whole world to battle against God’s people, the Jews and God Himself, as I have said!

Let me give you an overview of what is going on here and hopefully it will help put things in order for you.

In Daniel chapter 11 we are told that the Antichrist is in North Africa and while he is down there, he receives news that the Kings from the east are entering the land.

China and Japan, maybe some other nations with them, are coming down, maybe challenging the power of the Antichrist.

As this massive army moves westward, it seems to split in two, some coming down from the northern route and the rest coming from the eastern route to enter this valley, possibly because their numbers are so massive.

And these Kings of the east will meet the forces of the Antichrist in this area. And at one point they stop fighting each other, and they join forces to fight against the Lord and His people.

In Joel we are told of this period of time.

Beginning in verse 2 of Joel chapter 3 we are told, **“I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land. . . Proclaim this among the nations: ‘Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, Let all the men of war draw near, Let them come up. Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, “I am strong.”’ Assemble and come, all you nations, And gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O LORD. Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow - For their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!”**

**For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will grow dark, And the stars will diminish their brightness. The LORD also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel. So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, And no aliens shall ever pass through her again.**” Joel 3:2, 9-17.

Also, in Zechariah 14:2-5 we are told, **“For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the Lord will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south. Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the Lord my God will come, And all the saints with You.”**

This is speaking of the great battle that we are reading of here in Revelation, the battle of Armageddon!

As Jesus places His foot upon the Mount of Olives it splits in two and the Lord tells the Jews to flee through this new valley that He created, flee for safety.

One more point here and it comes out of verse 5 of Zechariah chapter 14, the last part of this verse that says, **“. . . thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with Him.”**

Who is that speaking of?

I believe it is speaking of us, His Bride, the Church coming with Him as He returns.

Jude put it this way, **“Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”** Jude 14-15.

Also, in Revelation 19:14 we read **“And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.”**

And in Colossians 3:4 we are told **“When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”**

With The Bride will also come the Tribulation saints who were martyred for their faith, the Old Testament saints, and even John the Baptist! And lastly, the Holy angels and we will deal more with this when we get to chapter 19, those who return with the Lord!

Psalm 2 also speaks of this battle and who they are fighting against. We are told in Psalm 2:1-3, **“Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, ‘Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.’”**

Now I have used that phrase, *“The battle of Armageddon”* many times, but please understand, this is not really a battle. It is a slaughter.

In Revelation 19:11-21 we are told, **“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. 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. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 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. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. 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, 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.’ 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. 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. 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.”**

How can man, the one who was created by God, fight against his creator and win? He can't and the Lord laughs at the foolishness of man!

VERSE 15

Jesus is speaking to those who are alive during this period of time, during the time of the pouring out of these bowl judgments.

And He is coming back, not might but for those who are not saved, it will be like a thief in the night. They are not prepared, and they will be caught in His judgment.

That was Paul's warning in I Thessalonians 5:2-4, "**For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.**"

Paul is contrasting unbelievers with believers here. When he says "**you**" he is speaking to believers and when he says "**they**" he is speaking about unbelievers.

They are going to be caught off guard, but believers will not!

But to those who have come to Christ during this period of time, the Lord will not come as a thief.

Notice how this verse ends. It says, "**. . . Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.**" Revelation 16:15.

That is kind of strange. What is this saying to us?

Alfred Edersheim gives a real-life example of what this means. He wrote, *“During the night the captain of the Temple made his rounds. On his approach the guards had to rise and salute him in a particular manner. Any guard found asleep when on duty was beaten, or his garments were set on fire. The confession of one of the Rabbins is on record that, on a certain occasion, his own maternal uncle had actually undergone the punishment of having his clothes set on fire by the captain of the Temple.”*

Interesting perspective. I think the idea here is that it is describing soldiers who are alert and on duty. Only a soldier who stays awake and keeps his clothes on is ready for combat.

Those caught unprepared when the battle breaks out will walk about naked and men will see their shame, the shame of a soldier derelict in his duty.

And look at where the armies of the world will gather as we read on.

#### VERSE 16

We are told that these armies of the world are gathered together to meet in the Valley of Megiddo, which is about 20 miles long and some 14 miles wide.

But there is a problem here. Let me try to answer the problem with these dimensions and I think this will make sense.

Maybe you don't even see the problem. So, what is the problem?

These dimensions don't seem to fit what Revelation 14:18-20 tells us.

We read, **“And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, ‘Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.’ So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.”**

Those dimensions are some 200 miles, so which one is right?

They both are. Let me explain it like this.

This battle will overflow those 20 miles or so that the Valley of Megiddo covers, and it will stretch from Bozrah, in Edom, northward to Megiddo at the foot of Mount Carmel, some 184 miles.

It is this area that we will see the blood flow some 4 to 5 feet or splash upon the horses bridle some 4 to 5 feet!

And when you look at this valley, it truly is a great battlefield!

Napoleon called it, ***“The most natural battlefield of the whole earth.”***

Also, Napoleon, in his disastrous excursion into Egypt, passed through this Valley and said, ***“If there is a place on earth where the last war must be fought, it is here.”***

He is right, and it will take place in this area, just as we are told here in Revelation.

And I remember standing on Mount Carmel and overlooking this area and it is so true, this is a great place for a battle.

Look at some of the battles that were fought here.

- *It was on this plain that Barak defeated the armies of Canaan. (Judges 5:19)*
- *Gideon met the Midianites there. (Judges 7)*
- *King Saul lost his life. (1 Samuel 31)*
- *Titus and the Roman army used this natural corridor, as did the Crusaders in the Middle Ages.*
- *British General Allenby used it when he defeated the Turkish armies in 1917.*

Please understand that this gathering of these armies of the nations of the world is not accomplished on their own. They may think they are doing what they want, but they are not!

Remember, we saw that these demons, the mouthpiece for Satan, the Antichrist and the false prophet summoned them together. And, ultimately, it is God who is orchestrating these events, He knows what is going to happen and He will use it to fulfill His plans.

This place, Armageddon in the Hebrew and Harmageddon in the Greek, can be broken down like this.

**HAR** means *mount*, and **MEGIDDO** means *rendezvous*, so it is the mount of rendezvous where the armies of the world will gather together. It will be a massive army!

### VERSE 17

I find it interesting where this last judgment of God is poured out – in the air.

Now as strange as that might seem, the Scriptures help us to understand the reason for this.

Paul, in Ephesians 2:1-2 tells us, “**And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.**”

God pours out His last judgment upon a Christ rejecting world that is focused upon the kingdom of Satan who is called “**the prince of the power of the air.**”

His kingdom, his rule, his power over the nations of this world is over and it will come crashing down, it will not stand before God!

When Jesus hung on the cross of Calvary, before He gave up His spirit, He cried out, “**It is finished!**” or “**Paid in full!**” It is Tetelestai in Greek.

In other words, He was saying that the door to God was now open for man to enter into that eternal life with Him. Jesus is that door! The door of salvation is completed by Jesus!

But now, here in Revelation 16:17 we hear the Lord saying, “**It is done!**”

These words carry a far different meaning. You see, the door of opportunity for man to enter into that relationship with God is now closed and now, what is left is sentencing for sinful man.

*“God’s judgment of Christ on Calvary provided salvation for repentant sinners; the judgment of the seventh bowl brings doom to unrepentant sinners.”*

And then there is one more judgment for unbelievers, ***THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT*** where the works of unbelievers will be judged, and they will be cast into the Lake of Fire eternally separated from God! ***IT IS FINISHED!***

Thus, the question we must ask ourselves is this, “***Will you endure the final wrath of God at Megiddo, or will you embrace the finished work of Jesus on the cross of Calvary?***”

The choice is yours!

The Lamb of God who has come to take away the sins of the world is coming back as the Lion from the tribe of Judah! God's judgment upon man was paid by Christ on Calvary and if you repent of your sins and ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life, you will not be judged. But the judgment of the seventh bowl brings doom to the unrepentant sinner.

In fact, these words, "**It is done!**" is what we have been waiting for and John has spoken of this before in Revelation, but now it is coming to pass.

Back in Revelation 10:7 we are told, "**but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.**"

And in Revelation 15:1 we are told, "**Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.**"

The wrath of God is over; He will separate the sheep from the goats. The sheep will enter into the Kingdom Age with Jesus and the goats will go to Hell, awaiting the final judgment, the Great White Throne Judgment, which we will read about in Revelation chapter 20.

And I believe that the voice crying out "**It is done!**" is none other than Jesus Himself!

Christ is the judge, and the judgment of the Great Tribulation is now concluded. "**It is done**" is His announcement.

#### VERSES 18-21

The earth has seen many devastating earthquakes, but nothing will compare to the one that is coming.

It is as Paul said in Hebrews 12:25-29, **“See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, ‘Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.’ Now this, ‘Yet once more,’ indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.”**

You see, all that is of God will remain, and all that is not will be destroyed, it will be shaken!

Regarding this period of time, Isaiah tells us in Isaiah 24:19-23, **“The earth is violently broken, The earth is split open, The earth is shaken exceedingly. 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. It shall come to pass in that day That the LORD will punish on high the host of exalted ones, And on the earth the kings of the earth. They will be gathered together, As prisoners are gathered in the pit, And will be shut up in the prison; After many days they will be punished. Then the moon will be disgraced And the sun ashamed; For the LORD of hosts will reign On Mount Zion and in Jerusalem And before His elders, gloriously.”**

Isaiah is telling us that the earth is going to stagger to and fro like a drunkard.

I believe this is related to a shift in the axis of the earth so that the earth is no longer tilted 23½ degrees.

If that happened, and the Lord replaced the canopy around the earth, we would see tropical conditions all over the earth, there would be no storms. It would be like when the earth was created and there was no rain, and a mist that came up at night watered the earth.

That was until the flood came, then things changed and probably the axis tilt of the earth changing the climate as well as the canopy being removed.

But, as the axis does shift there will be repercussions upon the landmasses where every island will be removed and every mountain leveled, except for Jerusalem, it will be elevated, as we will see.

What is interesting to me is that when we had that Tsunami several years back, caused by an earthquake, the earth's axis shifted ever so slightly.

Folks, when God shakes this earth people will feel it!

Also, "**the great city**" or Jerusalem will be divided into 3 parts, its topography will also be changed.

In fact, Zechariah 14:4-10 gives us a description of what these changes will be like.

- *The Mount of Olives will split in two, and a new valley running east and west will be created. (Zech. 14:4)*
- *A spring of water will flow year-round from Jerusalem to the Mediterranean and Dead Seas (Zech. 14:8), causing the desert to blossom like a rose. (Isa. 35:1)*
- *Jerusalem will be elevated, and the surrounding region flattened into a plain. (Zech. 14:10)*

Thus, the purpose of the earthquake as it relates to Jerusalem is not to judge the city, but to enhance it.

Look at what we are told. In Zechariah 14:4 we read, **“And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.”**

So, the Mount of Olives will split in two and create a new valley running east and west, as I have said.

In Zechariah 14:8 we are told, **“And in that day it shall be That living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, Half of them toward the eastern sea And half of them toward the western sea; In both summer and winter it shall occur.”**

Again, the land will blossom, even the deserts!

Also, in Zechariah 14:10 we are told that Jerusalem will be elevated, and the surrounding region flattened into a plain, but why?

To prepare Jerusalem for the King and His Millennial Reign as Isaiah 24:23 tells us, **“Then the moon will be disgraced And the sun ashamed; For the LORD of hosts will reign On Mount Zion and in Jerusalem And before His elders, gloriously.”**

The focus of the world will be upon Jerusalem where the King of kings and Lord of lords will reign!

Not only do we see earthquakes but also hail that weighs around 100 pounds!

Folks, the largest hailstone every recorded weighed about 2 pounds – this is 50 times larger!

Now here in Manitowoc we have seen hail the size of marbles, maybe even golf ball size and we have seen what damage that can cause.

Imagine 100-pound hailstones that are crashing down upon this earth and there will be no place you can escape!

Now, why did God use hail to judge man? Good question.

Let me ask you this. What is the punishment for blaspheme against God?

Being stoned to death!

In Leviticus 24:15-16 we are told, **“Then you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin. And whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall certainly stone him, the stranger as well as him who is born in the land. When he blasphemes the name of the LORD, he shall be put to death.’”**

Now, in seeing that, listen to what John tells us in Revelation 16:21, **“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.”**

The word **“blasphemed”** is the Greek word BLASPHEMEO and it means, *“to speak with impious irreverence concerning God Himself. . . . to revile God and Divine things.”*

Thus, these men who are blaspheming God will be stoned to death by these 100-pound hailstones just as Leviticus 24 tells us would happen to those who blaspheme God!

In seeing all this pain, all this suffering, rebellious man still refuses to repent of his sin, and he continues to blaspheme God. Despite all their suffering, they refuse to repent.

Spurgeon summed it up like this. He wrote,

I have known people say, “Well, if I were afflicted, I might be converted. If I lay sick, I might be saved.”

Oh, do not think so. Sickness and sorrow of themselves are no helps to salvation. Pain and poverty are not evangelists; disease and despair are not apostles.

Look at the lost in hell. Suffering has effected no good in them.

He that was filthy here is filthy there. He that was unjust in this life is unjust in the life to come. There is nothing in pain and suffering that, by their own natural operation, will tend to purification.

- Charles Spurgeon

But God's desire for sinful man is to turn to Him and live as this story illustrates for us.

We are told,

David Marks was one of the most powerful evangelists in early American history. He was born to godly Connecticut parents in 1805, and his awareness of God began early in life.

The incident that started him thinking about the Savior was a day when he was watching some flax burn. He had heard of the fires of Hell, and as he watched the flames, he thought how exceedingly dreadful even one moment in Hell would be.

“What would I do if the wrath of God fell on the earth?” he asked himself.

After serious thought, he decided that should the day of judgment come, he would descend into the well and hide there.

Running to his mother, he shared his plan; but she replied, “Ah, my son, the water will boil, and the earth will burn.”

He then told her that he would run to a spot he knew in the rocks where he could hide. She said, “But the rocks will melt.”

He was so overwhelmed with dread that he told her he would just die and escape the wrath of God in the grave. But she replied, “My child, your hope is in vain for the dead will awake and come out of their graves.”

Young David went outside and walked through the fields, pondering at length the reality of that coming day and his being unprepared for it.

Putting his hand over his heart, he looked toward heaven and said, “God, be merciful to me a sinner.”

- Pat Thomas, David Marks, p. 3

That truly is what God desires but again, He will never force anyone to enter into eternal life with Him. If you reject Jesus, the light of the world, then you will spend eternity in darkness apart from Him!

It is as writer said,

God’s eschatological and eternal wrath is inevitable; no one can prevent or hinder it from coming (Isa 43:13). But there is a way to escape it, because “there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom 8:1).

Those who by faith trust in Christ alone for salvation will escape both God’s eschatological wrath (3:10) and His eternal wrath (1 Thess 1:10). They will not face judgment, because their sins were judged when Jesus died in their place on the cross (2 Cor 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24).

In light of the inevitable judgment to come, the warning to all unrepentant sinners is “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts” (Heb 4:7).

- John MacArthur

Let me share with you what the Kingdom will be like, give you a little glimpse.

In Isaiah chapter 35, beginning in verse 1 we are told, **“The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, The excellency of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are fearful-hearted, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you.’ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert. The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water; In the habitation of jackals, where each lay, There shall be grass with reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, Nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; It shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there, And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”** Isaiah 35:1-10.

And in Isaiah 11:6-9 we are told, **“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.”**

But before the Kingdom Age is birthed, we must go through the pre-labor pains that occur prior to the start of the Tribulation Period, and I believe we are in right now.

Then the Tribulation Period will begin and out of the Tribulation Period we will see Jesus will return to set up His Kingdom.

Why are we not here for the Tribulation Period?

Because we have a relationship with Him, with Jesus and the Tribulation Period is not for us but it is for unbelievers as Jesus pours out His wrath upon a Christ rejecting world.

You see, we will be taken to be with the Lord prior to the start of the 7-year Tribulation Period.

Jesus put it this way in Revelation 3:10, **“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.”**

Yes, during the Tribulation Period many will get saved but many of them will be martyred for their faith in Jesus.

Thus, as the Lord has said, ***TURN AND LIVE!***