

The 6th Bowl of Wrath

Revelation: How It All Ends By William J. Sturm

Bible Text: Revelation 16:12-16 **Preached on:** Sunday, September 8, 2013

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Psalm 2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine 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 bands asunder, and let us cast away their cords from us. 4. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. 5. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath. 6. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. 8. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

So, sometime around the time when the kings of the earth set themselves against the Christ, the Christ is taking over the earth. Do you see that?

Joel 3:1 For, behold, in those days [after the events of Joel 2 which surround the 6th Seal] and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat [meaning "the Lord Jehovah is Judge] 2. I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley known as the place where Jehovah judges, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land ... 9 Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare 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 pruninghooks into spears....11. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ve heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of where Jehovah judges, Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Get you down; for the press is full, the fats 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. 15. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. So shall ve know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

16:12

And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

"The way of the kings of the east. That leaves a lot of room for guessing and you know a lot of empires have changed, but we have seen kings before in the book of Revelation, haven't we? We have known of ten kings. So, we have these kings of the east that are able to get now to what the Old Testament says will be the focus which should be Jerusalem. The location of this war, however, is given in 16:16: "Armageddon." Also, Megiddo which means "crowded hill" is its name. It's where a young king who did great things for God died in a battle. His name was Josiah. Josiah became king at age 8, the second youngest king in the history of Judah. Joash was the youngest at age 7 so Josiah was king at age 8 and he finally died in a town surrounding somewhere the valley of Megiddo, the valley of Armageddon. So this is a real place and it's a real place that's not far from Jerusalem

16:13

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, We first see the dragon in chapter 12, and he is Satan (12:9).

and out of the mouth of the beast, The first place that we see the beast is in Revelation 13.

and out of the mouth of the false prophet. We see him first in Chapter 13 as well: And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon."

16:14

For they are the spirits of devils, these unclean spirits that are coming out of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet are "spirits of devils." Some Bibles have "demons." working miracles. 1 Kings 22 tells a story and it involves, believe it or not, Jehoshaphat and not just Jehoshaphat but King Ahab. Together they were kings over the 12 tribes of Israel. It was time for Ahab to die and God had to get Ahab to a particular battle to get him killed. They asked for all the prophets to tell King Ahab what to do and all the prophets who were false prophets, told King Ahab, "Go ahead and go up to that battle and you'll do just fine. You're going to conquer them."

King Jehoshaphat said, "Ahab, there's no way in the world that I think that any of your prophets know God if they met him in the middle of the road and shook his hand," in so many words. That's the Sturm paraphrase. He said, "Isn't there another prophet?" And Ahab says, "There is a prophet. His name is Micaiah but I hate him because he only speaks negative about me." So they went and got Micaiah out of his house. He was never hanging around with the prophets of Ahab, he was at his house, probably making oatmeal or something and he went up to his front door and said, "Ahab wants to talk to you." He said, "Ahab doesn't want to talk to me. He's not going to get any good news out of me." "He wants you to come so shave and get your stuff on and come out to the chariot." He gets in the chariot, they roll on back to the place where, I think, Samaria where Ahab and Jehoshaphat were and Jehoshaphat says, "Please tell us what we're supposed to do about this battle." This is what Micaiah said, "Well, here's what I saw. I saw the Lord in heaven and all the host of heaven were around him and God said, 'What should I do to get Ahab

to go up to Ramoth-gilead?' I saw one of the spirits come before God and say, 'I'll go and be a lying spirit in the mouth of his prophets' and God said, 'Sounds like a plan.'"

So, here we have in the valley of Jehoshaphat something happening. Spirit beings are being used to tell lies to get kings to the valley of Jehoshaphat. What an amazing parallel! We have these false spirits of devils working miracles probably working miracles through people. They go forth to kings of the earth and of the whole world to gather them to battle, that great day of God Almighty. There are a couple of things I really need to show you here but working miracles. You have false prophets with the power of false spirits working miracles. You know Jews who love miracles will fall prey to this in the first 3 ½ years. They'll love to have a Messiah figure that does miracles like Moses.

great day of God Almighty. As you look at 1:8 through verse 12, look at who is talking in verse 8: "I am Alpha and Omega, I am the Almighty." It also says in verse 11, "I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last," so who is saying it in verse 8, who is saying it in verse 11? Verse 12 says, "I turned to see the voice," and who had the voice that said, "I am Alpha and Omega, I am first and the last, I am the Almighty?" The Son of man. Who would you say that is? It is Jesus. Who is claiming to be the "Almighty" in this Scripture but Christ?

So we understand that in chapter 16 when it says to gather them together to the great day of God Almighty it is also the day of Christ, the day of Jesus. Whoa, I don't know if you just caught what we just said: The day of Christ happens in chapter 16 of Revelation

Philippians 1:6 He that begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

What? The Holy Spirit inside of you is going to perform a work and we say until the day of the rapture? I totally agree. The rapture happens during the day of Christ but apparently there's something else that happens around that time period too: the battle of Armageddon. Paul talks about the day of Christ six more times.