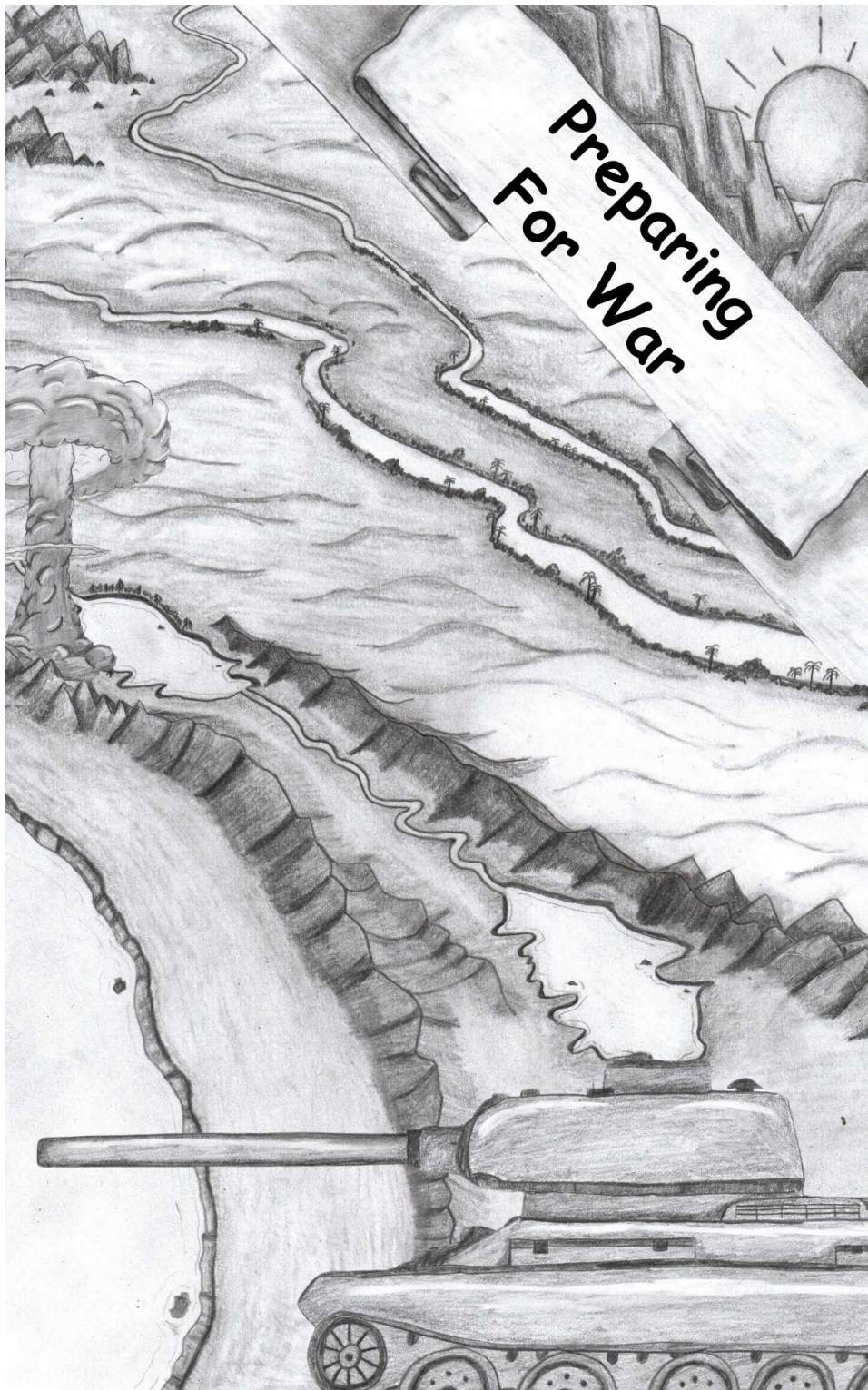


# Preparing For War



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The scientists stood or sat around, each one with his attention riveted on a steel tower six miles away. Some of them were in a block house, but others were outside, some in or behind vehicles and most wore eye protection glasses. One who did not was Richard Feynman.

On July 16, 1945, at 5:29 AM, there was a blinding flash of light, as bright as the sun, followed by an intense shock wave and an ever enlarging mushroom cloud. The watching scientists erupted in hearty cheers and congratulatory back slapping. They had succeeded. After three long years of research and experimentation, living in isolation with their families, removed from the rest of the world, they had succeeded in detonating the first atomic bomb in modern times.

Richard Feynman remembered, “When I returned to civilization, shortly after that... I would go along and I would see people building a bridge or they were making a new road and I thought, ‘They’re crazy, they just don’t understand, why are they making new things? It’s useless.’”<sup>1</sup>

Prior to the test Robert Oppenheimer, the project director, had sat down with Albert Einstein and

discussed the possibility that the atomic experiment would set up a chain reaction that wouldn't stop until it had engulfed the world. This, of course did not happen. In the movie "Oppenheimer" he visited Einstein again after the Trinity test and during their conversation, he reminded Einstein about their earlier discussion and then said, "We have ignited a chain reaction."<sup>2</sup>

Less than a month after this test, the United States dropped the new bomb on the city of Hiroshima in Japan. The destruction and suffering was indescribable. Many of those who survived the initial blast sickened and died of radiation poisoning and others of the subsequent cancers that resulted from the radiation exposure.

A few days later this was followed by a similar detonation in Nagasaki, Japan. World War II was rapidly brought to a close and everyone rejoiced that peace had returned. To this day it is debated whether the atomic bomb was necessary to end the war or not. But one thing it lead directly to was the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Soon both nations were building bigger and bigger nuclear weapons. In Hiroshima, those who were two

miles outside the detonation zone had a chance of surviving. Today, you need to be at least 10 miles from the epicenter to have the smallest chance of surviving. In the testing of the Tsar bomb, the biggest nuclear bomb ever made, it was found that windows were shattered six hundred miles from the epicenter of the blast.

The weapons that nations are armed with are truly terrifying. Today the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom have nuclear arsenals. India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel possess nuclear weapons or are suspected of having them. Some countries are known to have participated in nuclear weapons programs in the past or maintain the capability to develop them, but they do not currently possess operational nuclear weapons. The situation is dynamic, and international relations can influence nuclear policies.

Talk of war is all around us. Nations are readying their arsenals for conflict. Tensions are running high. Nations are jockeying for the best positions, eyeing each others' moves suspiciously. It isn't a matter of if, its a matter of when. One thing is certain. The next world war will use nuclear weapons.

*Everywhere people are asking, when will the next conflict be? Can humanity survive a nuclear war? How does one prepare for this type of conflict? The Bible says of this time that the hearts of men will be:*

*“Failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth.”<sup>3</sup>*

*In 1910 we were told:*

*“Everything in this world is in an unsettled state. The nations are angry, and preparations for war are being made. But though there is among the nations an increasing unrest, though they are mustering their forces, they are as if held back from action by an unseen power. The angels are holding the four winds until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.”<sup>4</sup>*

*It doesn't look like the conditions have changed much in a hundred years. Everywhere, people are asking, what is coming next?*

*The Bible talks about a great final conflict at the end of time. Will it be a nuclear war? Many, even among Adventists, thought that World War I was this final conflict. Even the secular world called it “the war to end all wars.” Sadly, it wasn't the final conflict and our prospects of surviving a world conflict today are a hundred times worse than they were, even during world war II.*

*But what is the battle of Armageddon mentioned as*

the final conflict in the Bible? Will World War III be Armageddon? Why is it important to understand Armageddon?

We heard about a girl once, she was probably 18 or 19, and she was asked if she knew what Armageddon was. She replied, "Why should I care what Armageddon is, it's not like it's the end of the world!"

Well, we have news for this girl. That is exactly what Armageddon is, the end of the world. It is the final conflict at the end of time and we need to prepare for it.

Today, we are going to take a closer look at this battle and the preparatory movements for it as shown in Revelation 16. This has been a rather controversial topic among the evangelical churches and even Adventists, who pride themselves on understanding prophecy, have been confused on this one. It has been discussed for decades and there are many different opinions. What is the battle of Armageddon? Who is involved in it and how does it affect us and our decisions now?

This is a very important topic to understand today, because we read:

“The trying experiences that came to God’s people in the days of Esther were not peculiar to that age alone. The revelator, looking down the ages to the close of time, has declared, ‘The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.’ Revelation 12:17. Some who today are living on the earth will see these words fulfilled... Even now preparations are being made for this last great conflict.”<sup>5</sup>

*Let’s take a really thorough look at this and see if we can figure out exactly what Armageddon is all about. There is only one place in the Bible that the term Armageddon is used. It is in Revelation 16:16*

“And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.”<sup>6</sup>

*This is the end to what we call the sixth plague. John’s vision in Revelation chapter 16 deals with a series of seven plagues. The Bible calls them the seven last plagues and the wrath of God.<sup>7</sup> The first five are mostly non-controversial. They are pretty much literal, mostly without symbols. These plagues fall after the close of probation as a final judgment on a fallen world.*

*The first plague is a grievous, incurable sore. The second plague is the oceans turning to blood. The third plague is the freshwater turning to blood. The fourth plague is the sun given power to scorch men with great heat. (Global warming, anyone?) The fifth plague*



*is darkness over the seat of the beast.*

*We see in the seat of the beast a symbol of Rome, the location where the papacy has its seat. The beast we understand to represent Papal Rome (we'll talk more about this later). The Papacy has had its seat in Rome for almost two thousand years and there is no indication that it is going to change. While this darkness will most likely encompass the entire world, it will be densest over Rome. It is an oppressive darkness, one that can be felt as was the darkness in Egypt.<sup>8</sup>*

*That brings us down to verse 12 and the plague that we are considering here. The one that is controversial.*

*“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. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.”<sup>9</sup>*

*There are lots of things happening here but let's start at the top and take it one thing at a time. So,*

*what is the river Euphrates and what is signified by its drying up?*

*First of all, it is dried up to prepare a path for this group of kings called the kings of the east. Now the river Euphrates is not a very big river. The Mississippi in the United States is considerably larger than the Euphrates. The concept that the drying up of the literal river Euphrates is necessary for the kings of the east to crossover and go to battle doesn't make any sense at all because the actual river itself has never been an impediment to armies crossing it. We've got thousands of years of history of armies going back and forth across this river to wage war on either side of it. That can't be what this is talking about. It has to be a symbol, but a symbol of what?*

*We have a clue as to what this river is in Revelation 9. Here we have a different group of seven angels who blow seven trumpets. These specifically cover the history of the fall of the Roman Empire.*

*“Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.”<sup>10</sup>*

*We read that these four angels:*

*“Were the four principal sultans of which the Ottoman empire was composed, located in the country watered by the great river Euphrates. These sultans were situated at Aleppo, Iconium,*

Damascus, and Bagdad. Previously they had been restrained; but God commanded, and they were loosed.”<sup>11</sup>

*So, the Euphrates in Revelation 9 represents the region through which the river flows, not the literal river. Today this region is mostly the country of Iraq. So something happens in Iraq when the sixth angel pours out his vial.*

*But let's go a little deeper. A river is made of water. What does water symbolize? Water symbolizes people.*

*“And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.”<sup>12</sup>*

*The fact that this is a river and not the ocean would indicate that this is a group of people and not the population of the whole earth. The fact that the water in a river is continuously flowing would indicate that these people exist over a long period of time and for many generations.*

*Now, these four principle sultans in Revelation 9 were also located in the heartland of a group of people, namely, the followers of Islam. These sultans ruled over people who were Muslims. Not only that, but the sultans arose out of Islam itself.<sup>13</sup>*

*The Euphrates is the river that defines the Middle*

East and the thing that defines the people of this area is the religion of Islam.

The river Euphrates must symbolize the followers of Islam. So it's drying up would mean that Islam disappears. This is hard to believe, considering that Islam is one of the principal religions of the world and one of the fastest growing. Right now it is a mighty and powerful river. But there is more in this prophecy that confirms this conclusion.

The river is dried up to prepare the way for the kings of the east. A lot of the Adventist pioneers looked at the kings of the east as the kings of Asia and when this river dried up (and they were thinking of the Ottoman Empire, who controlled this region at the time) they expected the kings of Asia to make war with the kings of the West.

But let's think about this further. There has been nothing in history that has prevented the kings of the earth from fighting each other, and the Ottoman Empire was no exception. We've seen war after war after war. In fact the Ottoman Empire came to an end as a result of World War I that was fought partially in the region of the river Euphrates. So even the Ottoman Empire did not keep the kings of the

earth from fighting. The drying up of this river has to mean something other than to open the way for the kings of the east to fight.

But maybe it would help if we consider more carefully who these kings are. We've gotten hung up on this for a very long time, thinking that the kings of the east are the kings of Asia, but what if they're not? This phrase "of the east" is the exact same phrase that is used in Revelation 7 where it's talking about the angel that ascends from the east.

"And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea."<sup>14</sup>

"From the east" is the same exact phrase we find in Revelation 16:12. It uses the same Greek word. The literal translation is "from the sun rising." This angel is ascending from the sun rising. These kings at the river Euphrates are the kings from the sun rising. Now, look at what Uriah Smith says about this phrase in Revelation chapter 7:

"The expression evidently refers to manner rather than locality; for as the sun arises with rays at first oblique and comparatively powerless, but increases in strength until it shines in all its meridian power and splendor, so the work of this angel commences in

weakness, moves onward with ever-accumulating influence, and closes in strength and power.”<sup>15</sup>

*Uriah Smith made it very clear that “from the east” meant ascending in the manner in which the sun rises, not the direction from which it comes.*

*So, if that’s what it means in Revelation 7 then it only makes sense that that’s what it means in Revelation 16. These kings from the sun rising start out obscure and gradually increase and increase until they reach their zenith of power when the river is wholly dried up.*

*This would mean that the kings of the east are the same kings that are mentioned in the next verse as “the kings of the earth and of the whole world.” These kings are being gathered “to the battle of that great day of God Almighty” by the agency of “three unclean spirits like frogs” who are “the spirits of devils, working miracles.”<sup>16</sup> And the way of their gathering is prepared by the drying up of the River Euphrates.*

*For a long time we have assumed that the kings of the east were one group that went to war as a result of the drying up of the river and the gathering together of the kings of the earth was another group gathered to fight them in a world war. But if the kings*

of the east are the same group of kings that are being gathered together and the term “from the sun rising” means the manner of their rise rather than their geographical location, this picture looks all together different.

This would mean that the river Euphrates is not something that is blocking their conflicts, but rather something that is preventing their unity. The drying up of the river Euphrates then, is as much a part of preparing the world for the battle of Armageddon as are the three unclean spirits like frogs that gather the kings of the earth and the whole world to that great battle. The river Euphrates represents a power that has prevented the leaders of the earth from uniting, not prevented them from fighting!

So, now we need to ask, what power has been chiefly responsible for preventing the powers of the world from uniting?

There is an interesting statement in *The Great Controversy*:

“A dark and threatening day had come for the Reformation. Notwithstanding the edict of Worms, declaring Luther to be an outlaw, and forbidding the teaching or belief of his doctrines, religious toleration had thus far prevailed in the empire. God’s providence had held in check the forces that opposed the truth.

Charles V. was bent on crushing the Reformation, but often as he raised his hand to strike, he had been forced to turn aside the blow. Again and again the immediate destruction of all who dared to oppose themselves to Rome appeared inevitable; but at the critical moment the armies of the Turk appeared on the eastern frontier, or the king of France, or even the pope himself, jealous of the increasing greatness of the emperor, made war upon him; and thus, amid the strife and tumult of nations, the Reformation had been left to strengthen and extend.”<sup>17</sup> (Emphasis supplied)

*This is pointing out that warfare prevented the reformation from being destroyed. One of the primary instigators of this warfare was the Turks (that would have been the Ottoman Empire at the time, encompassing the religion of Islam). Charles the Fifth was prevented from stamping out the reformation by warfare with the Turks and tensions with his fellow sovereigns of Europe.*

*We also find this interesting statement from the secular historian:*

“The checks and balances of motive and initiative in the late 1560s were the play of new globalizing forces in the world. The Mediterranean was the center of a vast arena of turmoil whose interconnections could be grasped only from space. Events in the Yemen, in the Netherlands, in Hungary and North Africa, were intertwined. The Protestant revolution in northern Europe was facilitated by the Mediterranean pressure the Turks applied to Philip.”<sup>18</sup>

*If the Turks had not been so eager to go to war with Charles and later Philip (both kings of Spain) in the*



Mediterranean and hadn't been so eager to try to get to the point where they could capture Rome, the Protestant Reformation would never have gone forward.

Let's think about that history a little bit. John Wycliffe was the morning star of the reformation. He died in 1384 and it was only through the providence of God that he died a natural death and wasn't martyred. His followers were ruthlessly hunted and killed throughout England, but through God's providence his doctrine made it to Bohemia and was embraced by John Huss.

Huss was martyred in 1415 and there followed many years of fierce fighting against his followers. For years the Hussites were victorious, but then compromises were made and the Hussites were in danger of extinction.

But something was happening in the east that proved a major distraction to the powers of Europe. In 1299 an obscure tribe of Turks won a battle against the Byzantine Empire. By 1358 they had made it all the way across Asia Minor and established a foothold in Europe, on the Gallipoli Peninsula. They took Thrace and Macedonia in 1371 and all of Bulgaria by 1396.

Constantinople fell in 1453 and all of Greece was under their control by 1461. By 1492, the entire eastern half of the Mediterranean was under their control and the European powers were looking for other trading routes to avoid trading with the hated Muslims. Enter the age of discovery.

By 1517, when Luther nailed his ninety-five theses to the doors of the church at Wittenberg, the age of discovery was well under way and the powers of Europe were starting the competition for trade and colonies that would consume them for the next four hundred years. All with the hope of thwarting the Muslims and weakening the Ottoman Empire.

This Muslim power represented by the river Euphrates was preventing the kings of the earth from coming together to wipe out God's people. This was true all the way back in the 1500s and has continued to this day. Islam and the hatred between it and Catholicism has been a major distraction that has kept the kings of the earth from being able to unite together to wipe out the people of God.

Today the Ottoman Empire no longer exists, but the religion of the Ottoman Empire is still with us and that religion is Islam. It is like a mighty river of many

people, sometimes at flood stage, sometimes a trickle, but it has always interfered with the unity of the kings of the rest of the world. It was at the core of the cause of World War I, which was primarily fought over who gets control of the Islamic lands of the Ottoman Empire.<sup>19</sup> Even today, the great powers of the world are being absorbed in conflict and competition with each other rooted in the heartland of Islam.

This is just further proof that Islam is the power symbolized by this river Euphrates. What happens when Islam dries up? The way is prepared for the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather together to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

But there is even more, these three unclean spirits like frogs, where did they come from? They come:

“Out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles.”<sup>20</sup>

Who do these three symbols represent?

The dragon is brought to view in Revelation chapter 12. It is a symbol of pagan Rome because we see it in chapter 12 existing before the birth of Christ and making war with him to destroy Him. After Christ's

return to heaven, the dragon became angry with the woman, which symbolizes Christ's church. We see all this history playing out in Rome's involvement in Herod's attempt to kill Jesus at His birth and later His crucifixion. Pagan Rome then tried for almost three hundred years to stamp out the Christian church through bloody persecution.

But pagan Rome no longer exists, it was superseded by papal Rome and the sixth plague is dealing with modern times. So what is the dragon symbolizing now? Notice in Revelation 12 that the dragon is also representing Satan working through Rome. The pagan religion was not just the worship of idols. It was very spiritual. The idols only represented the spirits that the people worshiped.

A big part of paganism was the supposed communication with the spirits of the dead. This necromancy did not die with pagan Rome, but has continued to the present day. It is in reality the direct communication with evil spirits. For the Bible says:

“Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.”<sup>21</sup> “The dead know not any thing”<sup>22</sup> “For there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.”<sup>23</sup> “And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a

people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?”<sup>24</sup>

*The supposed communication with the dead has become so widespread during the last two centuries that the Czarina of Russia was holding seances in the palace in St. Petersburg during World War I to obtain instruction from the spirits regarding how to win the war.<sup>25</sup> And the leaders of the Bolshevik revolution were direct worshipers of Satan. Said a middle aged and intelligent woman in 1922:*

*“I went to socialism, thought then I had the right idea and tried to persuade others to grasp the plan and accept the system; but alas we were floundering... At last I joined ‘The Worshipers of Satan...’ Our society was but lately organized, but its members are the elect...’ This strange woman has given me to understand that the foremost and most influential powers of the land are members of this terrible organization.”<sup>26</sup>*

*Woodrow Wilson, the US president during World War I was also involved in seances.<sup>27</sup> Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of Franklin Roosevelt, the president of the United States during World War II attended seances, as did Winston Churchill.<sup>28</sup> Nancy Reagan, the wife of president Ronald Reagan was also involved in seances.<sup>29</sup>*

*The spirit that came out of the mouth of the dragon is Spiritualism, alive and well today in the New Age Movement and any other movement that claims direct communication with the dead, or the spirits.*

The beast is Catholicism. This beast is brought to view in Revelation 13. We know it as papal Rome for we read that:

“The dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”<sup>30</sup>

When Constantine moved the capitol of the empire from Rome to Constantinople in 331 A.D., he handed the pope his seat. In 538 A.D., the emperor, Justinian, handed over the civil authority to the pope and the pope then took on himself the titles of the Roman Emperor in the west. The pope wielded this power for twelve hundred and sixty years and then it was removed by Napoleon in 1798, when the pope was imprisoned.

After this, the pope's power declined until he styled himself the “prisoner in the Vatican” in the 1870s. But in 1929 that deadly wound was healed with the restoration of temporal power over Vatican City. Since then he has been steadily gaining in influence and joining with the protestant churches in their attempts to control governments.

So, the dragon is spiritualism, the beast is the papacy, but who is the false prophet? The false prophet is a “religious impostor.”<sup>31</sup> This power is

working closely with the two previous powers and its work is seen in the image of the beast brought to view in Revelation 13. In this power is seen united all the power of the apostate protestant churches that are called Babylon in Revelation 14 & 18. They fell into this state of apostasy because of their rejection of the light from heaven in 1844.<sup>32</sup>

In just the last thirty years we have seen the protestant churches uniting with the Catholic church in various political movements, particularly abortion legislation in the United States. At the time Kennedy was elected, the Democratic Party was the party for Catholics, and the Republican Party was the party for Protestants. This has now changed. Catholics and Protestants are united in the Republican Party, and the Democratic Party now represents the anti-christian camp. All that remains for the fulfillment of Revelation 13 is for the Republican Party to take over the government and they are well on their way to doing just that.

The false prophet then, is the power that enforces the mark of the beast.<sup>33</sup>

So, we see that:

“The sources from which these spirits issue, denote that they will

work among three great religious divisions of mankind, represented by the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet, or Paganism, Catholicism, and apostate Protestantism”<sup>34</sup>

“Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power.. she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism...”<sup>35</sup>

*Where is Islam in this three-fold Union? It is not there and yet it is one of the largest religions in the world and one of the fastest growing. Where is Islam in these last scenes of the gathering to the battle of Armageddon? If it's such a big power why isn't it mentioned? But it is mentioned. It is the river Euphrates and what happens to it during the gathering together to the battle of Armageddon? It dries up.*

*How Islam dries up is a good question. We know that it is the direct result of the sixth angel pouring his vial onto the river. Is it absorbed into the christian church? Maybe, certainly not out of the question, considering all the conversions taking place recently, many of them the result of Muslims receiving supposed visions of Jesus Christ. Also, the antipathy that used to exist between the Papacy and Islam has cooled considerably, even to the point of the pope hosting peace talks with Islamic leaders. Is it wiped out through warfare? Could be, there is certainly plenty of conflict in the Middle*



East. We don't know the answer, it could be a combination of any number of events, but it is certain that the river Euphrates represents the power of Islam. Drying it up means that Islam is somehow going to disappear, we don't know how, but it will; and when it does, that is the removal of the final thing that is keeping the nations from gathering together, from uniting for the battle of Armageddon.

We have three metaphors in this passage for the manner in which the kings of the east gain power and unite. The first one is the drying up of the river Euphrates. It doesn't dry up instantly but as it dries up it makes way for these kings to rise. The second is the kings rising as the sun, as the river dries up the kings are rising as the sun. The third is the working of the three unclean spirits like frogs which are going out to gather them together. These spirits are deceivers and it is through their instrumentality that the river dries up, the kings rise to power, and are then gathered together.

If you take a look at the history of the 20th century you can see how the kings of the earth have been gradually rising to power and gradually uniting together into a one-world system. They're being

*marshaled together by demons for a specific purpose. That purpose is found in Revelation 17, which is a further explanation of the sixth plague.*

*“These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb.”<sup>36</sup>*

*The purpose is to make war against the Lamb.<sup>37</sup> The sixth plague is the preparation for that war, a preparation that has been going on gradually for at least a century. The sixth plague is to allow the final gathering together of the powers of earth through the agency of demons.*

*“And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.”<sup>38</sup>*

*Now here is an interesting word, Armageddon. It's interesting that even a good share of the secular world has heard the term Armageddon and they know it means the end of the world, except, perhaps for that young lady we mentioned at the beginning of this booklet. But what is this place called Armageddon?*

*The root of the word Armageddon is the Hebrew name Meggido and a lot of people think it's the literal valley of Megiddo in Israel, the valley of Megiddo where Abraham conquered the armies of Chedorlaomer. The valley of Megiddo where Josiah fought with the king of*

Egypt and ended up being killed. Many other battles in Israel and even Egypt were also fought in the valley of Megiddo. So it's only natural that people think that this last battle is going to be fought in the valley of Megiddo.

But there's one little problem with this and that is that the word here is not the valley of Megiddo nor is it just Megiddo. It is Armageddon. The "ar" or "har" added to the beginning of Megiddo would cause the word to literally translate as mount Megiddo or the mountain of Megiddo. Now a mountain and a valley are opposite things aren't they?

"Oh well, that must be a mountain near the valley of Megiddo," you say. But there is no mount Megiddo in the valley of Megiddo or anywhere near it. Mount Megiddo does not exist. So why would there be a non-existent location called Mount Megiddo for this final battle to take place?

Well, remember what we went through with the river Euphrates? And how it doesn't make sense for the river Euphrates to be literal? The same goes for Mount Megiddo. It can't be literal because a literal Mount Megiddo does not exist. All we have is a valley of Megiddo. What then, is this Mount Megiddo that

*this battle is to be fought on? This battle that the whole world is to be gathered together for?*

*Well, let's think about it a little bit. What does a mountain represent? If you think about a mountain in the Bible, what comes to mind? Well, the first one that we think about is mount Moriah. What happened on Mount Moriah? Abraham offered up Isaac, who was saved by the voice of God and they offered a ram in his stead. Later the city of Jerusalem was built there and Solomon's temple was built on this same mountain.*

*The next mountain that comes to mind is Mount Sinai. What happened at Mount Sinai? That's where God came down with Christ and met with Moses and gave the children of Israel the Ten Commandments. He even spoke the Ten Commandments to them with His own voice.*

*Then we think of Elijah on Mount Carmel and his showdown with the prophets of Baal.*

*What is the common thread in each one of these instances where we have a mountain mentioned? Each one has to do with the idea of worship. Mount Moriah was about worshiping God, following His directions and*

offering Isaac as a sacrifice. Then, of course, Solomon built the temple on Mount Moriah and what was the temple for? It was for the purpose of worship.

Mount Sinai was all about the worship of God, receiving His Ten Commandments.

Then, of course, when we get to Elijah the whole issue on Mount Carmel was definitely worship. You remember the story of how the Israelites were worshiping Baal and God sent a drought for three and a half years and then Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to a sort of duel.

They built two altars, one for them and one for him. The prophets of Baal called on him to light the sacrifice on fire and he never responded. Then Elijah prayed to God and God sent down fire from heaven and it burned up not only the sacrifice and the stones of the altar but all of the water in the ditch around it. Definitely fire from heaven. But again, what was the point? The point was worship. Who are you going to worship? Elijah put it this way;

“If the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.”<sup>39</sup>

Now we get down here to the end of time, to this last battle, and the location that the kings of all the

earth are brought together to is a symbolic mountain. This mountain must have something to do with worship.

In Revelation 16 you have the world gathered together by deceiving spirits on Mount Megiddo for the purpose of making war against the lamb. The lamb is Christ, and where is he?

“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads.”<sup>40</sup>

So, we have a picture of the world gathered together on the mountain of false worship and preparing to make war against God’s people who are gathered with Him on the mountain of true worship.

The question on which the battle of Armageddon hinges is this: Are you going to stand with Christ on His mountain or are you going to gather with the world on it’s mountain?

But how do you tell which mountain you are on? How do you tell who you are worshipping? Each side has a sign or mark for it’s followers.

Remember that angel in Revelation 7 that we talked about? He was bearing the seal of the living God and what did the people gathered on Mount Zion have on

*their foreheads? The Father's name. What is this seal of God that contains the Father's name?*

*Let's start by considering what a seal is. The word seal in Revelation 7 is #5420 in Strong's and means:*

*"A signet (as fencing in or protecting from misappropriation); by implication the stamp impressed (as a mark of privacy, or genuineness)."*

*Webster's 1828 dictionary defines the word seal as that which:*

*"Is used by individuals, corporate bodies and states, for making impressions on wax upon instruments of writing, as an evidence of their authenticity."*

*The words token, sign, seal, and mark are used interchangeably in the Bible.<sup>41</sup>*

*"The seal of God, as brought to view in our text, is to be applied to the servants of God. We are not, of course, to suppose that in this case it is some literal mark to be made in the flesh, but that it is some institution or observance having special reference to God, which will serve as a 'mark of distinction' between the worshippers of God and those who are not in truth his servants, though they may profess to follow him."<sup>42</sup>*

*The seal validates or authenticates a document. Today we more frequently use a signature in the place of a seal. If you have ever signed a contract, you know the significance of your signature. It is binding. In ancient times, the seal was how a king signed laws.*

*"In the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the*

king's ring."<sup>43</sup>

*A seal is always used in connection with some law or enactment that demands obedience, or on documents that are to be made legal and subject to law. There is always a connection between a seal and the law.*

*The seal of the ruler contains his name, his title, the territory over which he rules, and his right to rule.*

*The law of God is understood by all to be contained in the Ten Commandments. But to be authentic, this law must contain His seal. Let's look at the Commandments and see if it is there.*

*The first three commandments mention God, but they do not tell who this God is, for Paul says:*

*"There be Gods many and lords many."<sup>44</sup>*

*The fifth commandment has the words God and Lord in it but doesn't define them. The last five don't mention God at all. If this was all the Ten Commandments contained it would be impossible to convict the worst idolater of sin.*

*"The worshiper of images could say, This idol before me is my god; his name is god, and these are his precepts. The worshiper of the heavenly bodies could also say, The sun is my god, and I worship him according to this law."<sup>45</sup>*

*But if we add the fourth commandment, things*



*change. This commandment contains this statement:*

*“For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is.”<sup>46</sup>*

*Now things appear in an all together different light. Now we understand that this God is the Creator of all things. This God cannot be the sun for it commands the worship of Him who made the sun. This is no object in heaven or earth commanding obedience, but the One who made all these things. Now this law cannot be applied to false gods. For they are:*

*“The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth”<sup>47</sup>*

*The Author of this law has now declared His name, the Lord God, His right to rule, He is the creator, and His territory, the heavens and the earth and everything in them.*

*Without the fourth commandment, we have none of this information. This commandment, that the majority of Christians are so eager to remove, is the one that authenticates, makes legally binding, or seals the Ten Commandments. This commandment then, is the seal of God. The sign or mark of His worship. He Himself also tells His people this:*

*“Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.” “It is a sign between me and the*

children of Israel for ever:”<sup>48</sup>

*The object of keeping the Sabbath is to know the true God. It is as if God said “The Sabbath is a seal. On my part it is the seal of my authority, the sign that I have the right to command obedience; on your part it is a token that you take me to be your God.”*

*But is not this all true of those who keep Sunday? After all, they are keeping one day in seven? No, the commandment is very specific, it is the SEVENTH day, not one day in seven.*

*The seal of God is clearly the seventh day Sabbath. The underlying purpose of this seal is worshiping God. Here again is the concept of worship. You worship God by keeping His Sabbath and receiving His seal in doing so. If you are worshiping God but not accepting His seal, what God are you worshiping? You certainly aren't worshiping the Creator, but a counterfeit.*

*What does it say in Isaiah?*

*“If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth,”<sup>49</sup>*

*Where are the high places of the earth? They are the*

*mountains. The followers of God are gathered by the sealing angel on the mountain of true worship, Mount Zion, by keeping the seventh day Sabbath.*

“In the warfare to be waged in the last days there will be united, in opposition to God’s people, all the corrupt powers that have apostatized from allegiance to the law of Jehovah. In this warfare the Sabbath of the fourth commandment will be the great point at issue, for in the Sabbath commandment the great Lawgiver identifies Himself as the Creator of the heavens and the earth.”<sup>50</sup>

*God is preparing His people through the agency of His Spirit. Working through the messages of Revelation 14 and 18, He is gathering a group who stand united with Christ on mount Zion, true worship of the God of heaven. These receive the seal of God in their foreheads. We read of the evil coalition that they:*

“shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.”<sup>51</sup>

“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads... These are they which were not defiled with women (*churches*); for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.”<sup>52</sup>

“And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.”<sup>53</sup>

*This group are the ones who have taken heed to the message that Jesus gave in Revelation 18. They have come out of this coalition of Babylon and stand separate from it. This is the company who are the objects of Satan's wrath. They have overcome the image, the mark, and the number of the name of the beast.*

*The rest of the world are gathered, through the deceiving work of the unclean spirits, on the mountain of false worship, Mount Megiddo. Does this coalition also have a mark of worship? Yes! It is the mark of the beast.*

*What is the mark of the beast? It would be something that is in opposition to the Seal of God, a counterfeit. We find a clue to what this mark might be in Daniel 7:25 where the man of sin is said to:*

*"...Speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws."*

*We read of this same power in Revelation 13:5-6 that:*

*"There was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle."*

*These two beasts, one in Daniel and one in Revelation, represent the papacy, as we saw earlier. This church is the only power to ever claim to actually change God's Law. What did they change? His seal, the Sabbath commandment! They substituted the keeping of Sunday for the keeping of the Sabbath of God.*

“The glory shining from the law of God, enables angels to place the seal of God on the foreheads of those who obey the everlasting Gospel. But a counter sealing goes on at the same time. As Jehovah recognizes in the lives of His people the reflection of the law of His own eternal throne and the seal, His name or mark which is His Sabbath, so he who has, from the beginning, striven to thwart the Gospel of Jesus, has a seal of his own which gives his name, his title, and his dominion over which he rules. He who opposeth and exalteth himself above God, puts his seal in the place of the seal of the King of heaven. The image to the beast enforces the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, instead of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. The fourth commandment is the only one of the decalogue that the papacy has really thought to change, and those who in the face of light and truth, choose to keep the first day of the week as a Sabbath, are obeying the power that has ‘thought himself able to change times and the law,’ just as truly as those receive the seal of God, who take up their cross and keep holy the Sabbath of Jehovah, the seventh day of the week.”<sup>54</sup>

*So, in Revelation we have two marks brought to view as well as two mountains. One is the seal of God, the Sabbath, the other is the mark of the beast, Sunday. The sign of who you worship and what mountain you are gathered on is the day you keep.<sup>55</sup>*

*While the Holy Spirit is gathering God's people*

*together and placing His mark on them, the forces of evil are doing the same work and the purpose of their gathering is to make war.*

“To many it may seem incredible that the nations should be willing to engage in such an unequal warfare as to go up to battle against the Lord of hosts; but it is one province of these spirits of devils to deceive, for they go forth working miracles, and thereby deceive the kings of the earth, that they should believe a lie.”<sup>56</sup>

“Another event to be noticed under this plague is the issuing forth of the three unclean spirits to gather the nations to the great battle. The agency now already abroad in the world known as modern Spiritualism, is in every way a fitting means to be employed in this work. But it may be asked how a work which is already going on can be designated by that expression, when the spirits are not introduced into the prophecy until the pouring out of the sixth plague, which is still future. We answer that in this, as in many other movements, the agencies which Heaven designs to employ in the accomplishment of certain ends, go through a process of preliminary training for the part which they are to act. Thus, before the spirits can have such absolute authority over the race as to gather them to battle against the King of kings and Lord of lords, they must first win their way among the nations of the earth, and cause their teaching to be received as of divine authority and their word as law. This work they are now doing; and when they shall have once gained full influence over the nations in question, what fitter instrument could be employed to gather them to so rash and hopeless an enterprise?”<sup>57</sup>

*The preliminary work is being done now. Earlier, we discussed these three unclean spirits and the sources from which they issue. But there is more to the dragon than simply the supposed communication with the dead.*

As the industrial revolution and the age of science has progressed, people in a large part of the world have given up their superstitious beliefs. They now believe in science, that which can be touched, seen, smelled, and proven by the scientific method. Many have given up belief in God, life after death, and the existence of devils and even of Satan himself. Many, even among professed Christians do not believe that the devil exists.

Satan was prepared for this. He has a deception prepared for the scientists, the atheists, the doubters. He has a plan to bring them into this coalition as well. Enter UFOs, unidentified flying objects. For years considered a conspiracy theory of the credulous, the US government has now admitted their existence. Not only their existence, but their secret interaction with these so called alien beings over the last century.

Every scientist who enters the realm of extremely advanced physics has ended up in contact with extra terrestrials. There is science here, spaceships that can be taken apart and examined. Technologies unknown that have been utilized. Bodies that have been autopsied. Personal interaction with beings that are clearly far beyond our own intelligence.

When you put all of the evidence together you get a picture of why these beings are here. They claim they have come to help mankind, to help end war and if we follow their wisdom, we can obtain world peace. This is part of modern, scientific, spiritualism. These are demons, familiar spirits, the spirits of devils, working miracles.

There are a lot of people out there that like to throw around the term “conspiracy theory” as though to acknowledge a conspiracy was some evil thing. But some conspiracies are real and yes, there are a lot of evil people planning a lot of evil things. But the plan, the real plan, none of these “conspiracy theorists” or even those who are conspiring, are fully aware of. Because the real conspiracy has been made by Satan. He is the ultimate conspirator. His conspiracy is against the God of heaven, and every person in this world who does not have his eyes open, is not awake, who has not kept his garments unspotted from the world, is being used and manipulated into this grand conspiracy.

“Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. The powers of earth, uniting to war against the commandments of God, will decree that all, ‘both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,’ [Revelation 13:16.] shall conform to the customs of the church by the observance of the false sabbath. All who refuse compliance



will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally be declared that they are deserving of death. On the other hand, the law of God enjoining the Creator's rest-day demands obedience, and threatens wrath against all who transgress its precepts."<sup>58</sup>

*Remember what we said about how the river Euphrates drying up opens the way for the kings of the earth and the whole world to unite? Here we see that unity and its purpose.*

*There are two armies who engage in this final conflict, one is united on Mount Zion (true worship) under the blood stained banner of Prince Emmanuel, and have the seal of God in their foreheads. The other is confederated on Mount Megiddo (false worship) under the rule of Satan and bear the mark of the beast. Here, in order to congratulate those who have followed him so blindly, appears Satan in person. Still the deceiver, he claims to be Christ, requires their worship, and urges them on to get rid of this little company who refuse to unite with them in their coalition.*

*Already one of these so called extra terrestrials has appeared to people claiming to be Christ returned to save the earth. Satan is masterfully drawing all the strings together to bring all of humanity into a bond of union on his mountain of false worship.<sup>59</sup>*

The sixth plague in Revelation 16 is showing the nations of the earth finally united under Satan on the mountain of false worship and declaring war against Christ in the person of His people, who are gathered with the Lamb on the mountain of true worship.

We've seen how this coalition formed gradually over time. We've seen how it rises the way the sun does. We've seen how the devil has worked through his three unclean spirits to form a universal bond of union, the confederacy of evil against heaven. They are now ready for battle.

In the Bible there are three main battles of the great controversy between God and Satan. The first battle was in heaven with Lucifer and God the Father. It ended with Lucifer being kicked out. And, of course, he came down and tempted Eve with the fruit, regaining access to heaven by usurping Adam's place. The second battle was when Christ came to redeem mankind. This battle was won by Christ on the cross. Now there's a third battle.

We see this battle mentioned in Revelation 12. At the very end, after it talks about the second battle between Christ and Satan, that Christ won, we see the dragon being wroth with the woman and going to

*make war with the remnant of her seed that keep the Commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. This is the third battle of the conflict. This battle is fought by Satan and his coalition against Christ in the person of His followers.*

*Both sides are now prepared for this third battle, the battle of Armageddon, that great battle of God Almighty. Blindly, the world follows Satan's orders and they issue a decree that after a certain time, all those who refuse to accept Sunday and worship the false Christ, should be put to death. This is an open declaration of war against God and His law and the battle of Armageddon, this final battle of worship swiftly follows and it is a battle to the death.*

*The declaration of war comes from the coalition and is the death decree against the followers of God, those who keep His law and have His spirit. The battle itself begins with the 7th plague.*

*“And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell*

upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.”<sup>60</sup>

“When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof...

“By the people of God a voice, clear and melodious, is heard, saying, ‘Look up,’ and lifting their eyes to the heavens, they behold the bow of promise... It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people. The sun appears, shining in its strength. Signs and wonders follow in quick succession. The wicked look with terror and amazement upon the scene, while the righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance. Everything in nature seems turned out of its course. The streams cease to flow. Dark, heavy clouds come up and clash against each other. In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying: ‘It is done.’ Revelation 16:17.”<sup>61</sup>

*By issuing the death decree, the Kings of the earth and of the whole world, these kings that arise as the sun, have declared war on heaven and heaven now declares war on them. The wicked are destroyed by the brightness of His coming and the coalition on Mount Megiddo is thrown into the lake of fire and destroyed.*

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man

knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshiped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.”<sup>62</sup>

*The wicked flee in terror at this sight.*

“Said the prophets of old, as they beheld in holy vision the day of God: ‘Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.’ Isaiah 13:6. ‘Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of His majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon everyone that is proud and lofty, and upon everyone that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low.’ ‘In that day a man shall cast the idols of his silver, and the idols of his gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats; to go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of His majesty, when He ariseth to shake terribly the earth.’

Isaiah 2:10-12, 20, 21, margin.”<sup>63</sup>

“Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the size of a man’s hand. It is the cloud which surrounds the Saviour and which seems in the distance to be shrouded in darkness. The people of God know this to be the sign of the Son of man. In solemn silence they gaze upon it as it draws nearer the earth, becoming lighter and more glorious, until it is a great white cloud, its base a glory like consuming fire, and above it the rainbow of the covenant. Jesus rides forth as a mighty conqueror.”<sup>64</sup>

*This is the second coming, there is no way Satan could imitate this coming with power and glory. He would if he could, but God won’t allow it. There will be no mistaking His coming and “every eye shall see him.”<sup>65</sup>*

*Jesus then raises the righteous dead.*

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”<sup>66</sup> “This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”<sup>67</sup>

*Satan is now bound to this earth for a thousand years. No longer is he permitted to leave this planet to tempt and annoy the unfallen races of other worlds.*

“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no

more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”<sup>68</sup>

*This fit man or “angel” is a symbol of this group that stands on Mount Zion. By standing separate from the coalition of great Babylon and overcoming the mark of the beast they bind Satan to this earth, this is the remnant of her seed which keep the Commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

“Now the event takes place, foreshadowed in the last solemn service of the day of atonement. When the ministration in the holy of holies had been completed, and the sins of Israel had been removed from the sanctuary by virtue of the blood of the sin-offering, then the scape-goat was presented alive before the Lord; and in presence of the congregation the high priest confessed over him ‘all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat.’ [Leviticus 16:21.] In like manner, when the work of atonement in the heavenly sanctuary has been completed, then in the presence of God and heavenly angels, and the host of the redeemed, the sins of God’s people will be placed upon Satan; he will be declared guilty of all the evil which he has caused them to commit. And as the scape-goat was sent away into a land not inhabited, so Satan will be banished to the desolate earth, an uninhabited and dreary wilderness.”<sup>69</sup>

*This battle of Armageddon is also described in Ezekiel 38-39 and reading it, you realize that this isn’t the end of this battle. There are more scenes in this conflict.*

“Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him... Persia,

Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee. Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them... Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, [that] at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought... Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil? ... And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes... And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face. For in my jealousy [and] in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that [are] upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground. And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother. And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone... And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire... And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it The valley of Hamongog... And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand



that I have laid upon them... Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name... Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.”<sup>70</sup>

*While Satan and his angels are confined to this earth, suffering the torture of no one to deceive and nothing to do but contemplate their end, God’s people are in heaven. But they are not idly enjoying their redemption during this time. For they reign with Christ for a thousand years.*

“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”<sup>71</sup>

“During the thousand years between the first and the second resurrection, the Judgment of the wicked takes place. The apostle Paul points to this Judgment as an event that follows the second advent. ‘Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts.’ [1 Corinthians 4:5.] Daniel declares that when the Ancient of days came, ‘Judgment was given to the saints of the Most High.’ [Daniel 7:22.] At this time the righteous reign as kings and priests unto God... In union with Christ they judge the wicked, comparing their acts with the statute book, the Bible, and deciding every case according to the deeds done in the body. Then the portion which the wicked must suffer is meted out, according to their works; and it is recorded against their names in the book of death.

“Satan also and evil angels are judged by Christ and his people. Says Paul, ‘Know ye not that we shall judge angels?’ [Revelation 20:4, 6; 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3.] And Jude declares that ‘the angels

which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains-under darkness unto the Judgment of the great day.' [Jude 6.]”<sup>72</sup>

*When this judgment is complete, Christ returns to this earth with the redeemed and the New Jerusalem is brought down to this earth.*

“And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.”<sup>73</sup>

“At the close of the thousand years the second resurrection will take place. Then the wicked will be raised from the dead, and appear before God for the execution of ‘the judgment written.’ Thus the Revelator, after describing the resurrection of the righteous, says, ‘The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.’ And Isaiah declares, concerning the wicked, ‘They shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited’ [Revelation 20:5; Isaiah 24:22.]”<sup>74</sup>

*Now we see the final scene of this Battle of Armageddon. This final scene takes place after the wicked are raised in the second resurrection.*

*Satan now gathers the resurrected wicked and deceives them again. He tells them that he is the one who has raised them and that they can take the city. They marshal together, forming the largest army ever witnessed on the earth, for they are the armies of all*

*ages. They lay siege to the city.*

*But their efforts are in vane. Christ appears above the city and is crowned before them.*

“Now Christ again appears to the view of his enemies. Far above the city, upon a foundation of burnished gold, is a throne, high and lifted up. Upon this throne sits the Son of God, and around him are the subjects of his kingdom. The power and majesty of Christ no language can describe, no pen portray. The glory of the Eternal Father is enshrouding his Son. The brightness of his presence fills the city of God, and flows out beyond the gates, flooding the whole earth with its radiance.”<sup>75</sup>

“In the presence of the assembled inhabitants of earth and Heaven the final coronation of the Son of God takes place.”<sup>76</sup>

“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”<sup>77</sup>

*After the coronation, the wicked are shown the plan of redemption and the judgment pronounced against them. They acknowledge the justice of their sentence and when Satan tries to rally them again to take the city, they refuse to follow him. Fire comes down from heaven and consumes them all.*

“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.”<sup>78</sup>

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and

the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.”<sup>79</sup>

*This is the final scene of this fearful Battle of Armageddon. The coalition, the evil confederacy, gathered together on the mountain of false worship are all destroyed and the earth is restored to the people who gathered on the mountain of true worship and were sealed with God’s seal.*

*Remember, Armageddon has to do with worship. The seal of the commandments of God is the seventh-day Sabbath. The mark of the beast is the counterfeit sabbath, Sunday. It’s all about who you worship.*

“We are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecies are fulfilling. Strange and eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven, – events which it was declared should shortly precede the great day of God. Everything in the world is in an unsettled state. The nations are angry, and great preparations for war are being made. Nation is plotting against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. The great day of God is hastening greatly. But although the nations are mustering their forces for war and bloodshed, the command to the angels is still in force, that they hold the four winds until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.”<sup>80</sup>

*The final conflict is about who you are going to worship. Right now your decision is being made, the armies are gathering on their respective mountains, the living are being judged.*

“The trying experiences that came to God’s people in the days of Esther were not peculiar to that age alone. The revelator, looking

down the ages to the close of time, has declared, 'The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.' Revelation 12:17. Some who today are living on the earth will see these words fulfilled. The same spirit that in ages past led men to persecute the true church, will in the future lead to the pursuance of a similar course toward those who maintain their loyalty to God. Even now preparations are being made for this last great conflict."<sup>81</sup>

“On which side are we ranging ourselves? On the side of the dragon, who was wroth with the woman, and who went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ? ‘I saw three unclean spirits like frogs,’ John writes, ‘come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.’

“On which side are you standing? On the side of those that worship the beast and his image? Are you connected with those who have lost the spiritual principles that distinguish them as men, and allied them to God, and who have become secondary subordinates, united with the great apostate? Christ died to make it possible for you to be allied with angels, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. If you are obedient to all his commandments, you will reign as kings and priests unto God. Will you choose the degrading captivity of disobedience and transgression? Will you link yourselves with those who make void God’s law?”<sup>82</sup>

*Are you following God and keeping His Sabbath? Are you prepared for this final conflict? Is your lamp filled with the oil of the Holy Spirit? On what mountain are you standing? Who are you worshipping?*

*The Battle of Armageddon really is...*

**The End!**



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