

THE FINALITY OF DIVINE WRATH – Revelation 15-16

In **chapter 15** we have the prelude to the *seven bowl judgements* of God's wrath. These judgements will *complete* the *just* wrath of God, being poured out on the earth at the end of the tribulation period. The prophet Zephaniah prophesied about this final judgement. **(Zephaniah 3:8)** "Therefore wait for Me," says the Lord, "Until the day I rise up for plunder; My determination is to gather the nations To My assembly of kingdoms, To pour on them My indignation, All My fierce anger; All the earth shall be devoured With the fire of My jealousy.

(v.1-3) The saints of the tribulation are standing here in victory. Many believe the fire mixed with this sea is representative of God's judgement; our God is a consuming fire **(Hebrews 12:29)**. As with the saints of the tribulation, only those who are in Christ will be *able* to stand on the day of God's judgement! **(John 8:36)** **Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. Free from the wrath of God!**

They are singing the song of **Moses**, *Israel's deliverer from Egyptian bondage*; *this is a reference to Moses' song in Exodus 15*. This song is also called the song of the **Lamb**, *who has delivered us from the bondage and penalty of sin!* **Verse 4** contains a millennial reference, the one-thousand-year reign of **Christ**. **(v.5-7)** The *temple of the tabernacle* refers to the holy of holies where the ark of the testimony (covenant) resides, which we also saw in **Revelation 11:19**.

Each angel has a golden band, or sash, across their chest; they are adorned in *priestly garments*, because their task is a holy one. Jesus, *our high priest*, also appeared with a golden band (sash) across His chest, in **Revelation 1:13**. **(v.8)**

“the temple was filled with smoke” - a manifestation of God’s glory and power in judgement! In **Exodus 19:18** Mount Sinai was enveloped in smoke, because the law pronounced judgement upon all who failed to obey it. In **Isaiah 6** – *the prophet saw the temple filled with smoke* – prior to being commissioned with a message of judgement against Israel. In **(v.8b) Heaven will be “barricaded” until the plagues are completed.**

In chapter 16 we find the last seven plagues of God’s wrath, called the bowl (vial) judgements. *Let’s read through the first five judgements. (v.1-11) – (v.7) Judgement according to truth and righteousness. We live in an era in which truth, facts do not matter. When God judges the earth, however, excuses that are common today, like *situational ethics, personal perceptions,* will not matter; *only His righteousness and truth!* **My Pillow guy** – CEO, Mike Lindell – Minnesota police were called out on a welfare check on a man standing in his yard clutching a pillow – turns out it was life size cut out of the Mike Lindell! 😊 It’s not what we think we see that matters, but the truth!*

(v.12-16) We have here the sixth bowl – John sees three “*spirits like frogs*” coming out of the mouth of the dragon (devil), beast (anti-Christ), and the false prophet. **Verse 16** reveals, *without a doubt,* the nature of these spirits – *they are demonic, deceiving the whole-world, drawing mankind into the battle of all battles!* **It appears, although some disagree, there are two end times battles that take place during the first half, and second half, of the seven-year tribulation period.**

In **Ezekiel 38:1-6** we see a prophecy regarding a battle during the tribulation period, an *invasion* led by a ruler (prince) called **“Gog,” (Nelson Bible Dictionary: “golden ornament”)** - he is the *ruler* of **Magog** or **“Rosh,”**

“Meshech,” and “Tubal” – all of which were *located* north of the Black Sea and Caspian Sea. **Rosh - means: chief** – and is an early form of the word “**Russia**.” www.gotquestions.org/Russia-end-times.html <https://walvoord.com/article/301> There are *primarily*

A total of **five** nations will take part in this invasion: **1) Magog-Rosh (Russia)** – **2) Turkey** (*in biblical times Turkey was divided into four sections: Meshech, Tubal, Gomer, and Togarmah – they are also mentioned in Ezekiel 38:1-6*); **3) Persia (Iran)**; **4) Ethiopia** (*also called “Cush” – which consisted of Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan*); **lastly, 5) Lybia** (*also known in scripture as “Put”*). **These nations will form a coalition against Israel, to “plunder” Israel, (Ezekiel 38:12).**

However, they will meet their *demise* on the mountains of Israel, **Ezekiel 38:21, 22**; the **defeated** forces of Gog will be *buried* “east of the sea” – that is **east** of the Dead Sea in the Valley of Abarim (in modern-day Jordan); the valley will be *renamed* the “**Valley of Hamon Gog**” (the multitude of Gog) **Ezekiel 39:11**. *Scripture says God will give them a burial place in Israel – historically, Israel controlled the region east of the Dead Sea (2 Samuel 8:2; Psalm 60:8)*. In the **aftermath** of this battle, it will take **seven months** to *bury* the dead and **seven years** to *burn* the weapons of war – **Ezekiel 39:9, 12**. Thus, the *burning* of the weapons will continue on into the *beginning* of the Millennial Reign of Christ.

The second end times battle is found in **Daniel 11:40-45** – **separate from the battle of Ezekiel 38, 39**. This battle takes place towards the end of the seven year tribulation period; while the battle in **Ezekiel 38** occurs during the first part, or midway through the seven-year tribulation period. In **Daniel 11**, the anti-Christ is being attacked by the “king of the South” and the “king of the

North.” In **Daniel 11:1-35** we understand the king of the South to be **Egypt**, and the king of the North to be **Syria**. Both nations will attack the *anti-Christ*; however, the anti-Christ will prevail against them. **Daniel 11** reveals the Libyans and Ethiopians will be *allied* with the anti-Christ at this time.

In **Daniel 11:44**; “*But news from the east and the north shall trouble him.*” (Read: v.12) Who are the “kings of the east?” Possibly China allied with Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, making up the 200 million-man army (9:16) – this army is now coming against the anti-Christ. *In the news recently, Pakistan has been asking China to assist them in their dispute with India. Not too long ago, the embattled Venezuelan dictator Nicholas Maduro traveled to China searching for relief funds. (Reuters 9/12/18).* Many believe the army from the north, mentioned in **Daniel 11:44**, is possibly a revived Russian army, after suffering defeat in **Ezekiel 38**. **Thus, when Jesus returns, He will return in the midst of a great battle between these warring factions.** Where is the U.S.? Possibly suffering from political implosion! Or *neutralized* by a depleted military.

Mankind will be on the verge of total annihilation when Jesus returns. (Matthew 24:21-22) **For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.** Armies will be *deployed* throughout Israel, with the **Valley of Armageddon** (Megiddo) as the focal point. Last week I said the Valley of Jehoshaphat was another name for Armageddon; that was my mistake. Christ will return in the midst of chaos, just as He was born in the midst of chaos. **Yet, God sent Christ, to overcome our chaos!**

The seventh bowl (v.17-18) The *noises, thunderings, lightnings, and earthquake, represent judgement!* A great earthquake takes place, also mentioned in **Ezekiel 38:19, 20**. Scripture also tells us when Jesus returns, He will *step down* on the **Mount of Olives**, *resulting in an earthquake –* **Zechariah 14:4** – this *may* be the same earthquake that’s mentioned here, (Every Prophecy of the Bible; John F. Walvoord, pg. 191, 192).

“It is done!” The completion of God’s wrath! **(Daniel 11:36)** **“Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.”** What God determines over your life is what matters! **(Romans 8:31)** **What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?**

What is the “great city?” (v.19a). Speculation regarding the identity of **“Babylon”** ranges from Rome to the United States. The most *common* view is that Babylon will be the rebuilt city of ancient *Babylon*, located on the Euphrates River, which will be the capital of the final world government (cf. Walvoord, Revelation, pp. 240-41). Whether a *city, nation, or merely a world-system*, as some suppose, it is clear God’s wrath will be poured out with all fierceness upon it! (Bible Knowledge Commentary) **Cities around the world will collapse (v.19a).** **(v.20, 21)** A geological disaster takes place. Great hail will *also* fall on men (mankind). According to one source a talent can weigh from 33kg-50kg (75lbs-110lbs). *You think hail damage was bad last summer!*

Despite all of this – the *earthquakes, geological disasters, and great hail* – men will blaspheme, rather than turn to the Living God! Over time, the

heart will either *harden* or *soften*; it's all a matter of how we respond to the "VOICE," the word of God! **(Hebrews 3:7-8a) Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion..."**

CONCLUSION: (v.15) "I am coming!" Sounds like a warning, and it is! He is coming, and we are going! **"Blessed" (well off) is the person who watches and keeps his "garments." In other words, keep a "sound heart."** **(Proverbs 14:30) A sound heart is life to the body, But envy is rottenness to the bones. Literally: The Health of all the body parts is a heart of trust and reliance on the Lord. This is everlasting "Life-Time" fitness!**

Envy is rottenness - in the **Septuagint** (*Greek version of the Old Testament*), the Hebrew word for "rottenness" is translated "is a moth" – as a moth slowly eats *away* at clothing, so the rottenness of sin, *envy, and the like*, eats away at our intimacy and witness in Christ. Thus rendering us naked, vulnerable to the spiritual elements of darkness, and a life of shame!

COMMUNION – reminds us Jesus bore our shame on the cross; ***"for the joy set before Him, He endured the cross despising the shame!"*** Thus, salvation, rather than shame, is the eternal destiny for all who place their faith (trust) in Christ! **(Joel 2:26) You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, And praise the name of the Lord your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame.**