## **CHAPTER XXIII**

## THE BATTLE OF GOD ALMIGHTY

In this chapter, we begin with verse 12 of Revelation 16, reading: "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." This river will be dried up to make easy movement for the great armies of the East and all of their equipment to be brought to Jerusalem over against the Valley of Jehoshaphat. Verse 13 and 14 of the chapter we see the spirit by which the world will be mobilized for battle against God. Already under the fourth and fifth vial the world had become exceedingly mad at God and this made them just right for the Devil to bring them (in the flesh) to battle against God. This is the old battle the Devil started in heaven and now it will be finished in this life. Notice Revelation 12:7-9 [see appendix]. The dragon mentioned here under the sixth vial is the Devil. He and the Beast, the "Man of Sin" and all of the leaders in his false religious system, now speak with the same language against God. The spirits of the Devil coming out of all of them will fan the fire of the hatred of God to its highest point, by terrible blasphemy and propaganda is carried by every means of communication unto all nations and people headed by the "Man of Sin" (the Son of Perdition). He is now the direct medium of the flesh against God.

Again, let us notice words on him from the Prophet Daniel *(Daniel 8:23-25 [see appendix])*. Here we see again that he shall stand up against the Prince of Princes, who is Christ. Now notice Revelation 17:12-14 *[see appendix]*. Here we see the ten nations who have given their strength to the Beast, having one mind with him to make war against the Lamb. Verse 15 of chapter 16 tells us of the sudden, unmarked movement the Lord will make coming to this battle, and they that have not kept their garment in the days of the mercy of God will be on the battlefield against God; and all the host of heaven shall see the shame of them. Verse 16 gives the place of the last battle, which is Armageddon, the battle of God. Armageddon, the table land of Esdraelon in Galilee and Samaria, is now the sight of modern Jerusalem, between Mt. Tabor and Mt. Ebal. This is the old battlefield where many ancient battles have been fought and it is where God once took a direct hand in battle on the behalf of Israel in the days of Jehoshaphat *(2 Chronicles 20:20-30 [see appendix])*. The forces of evil – both seen and unseen – will be gathered on one mount and Christ and the 144,000 saints will be gathered on the other.

Let us notice the forces of good and the forces of evil (two great armies) as they face each other on the mountains. We look at Ezekiel 30:1-12 and 39:1-6 *[see appendix]*. Next, we notice and read Revelation 19:19, *"AND I SAW THE BEAST, AND THE KINGS OF THE EARTH, AND THEIR ARMIES, GATHER TOGETHER TO MAKE WAR AGAINST HIM THAT SAT ON THE HORSE, AND AGAINST HIS ARMY."* Again, we notice the armies of heaven lead by Christ to one of the mountains, facing the "Man of Sin" and the entire wicked host with the Devil and the fallen angels and the unseen forces of evil. Notice and read Revelation 19:11-15 *[see appendix]*. Once again, the heavens above – the upper ceiling of space which separates the upper waters from the lower waters, making our space that is called heavens – will be opened according to verse 11. (<u>Note</u>: Readers please use your bibles on all scriptures mentioned here between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> verses.) Here we have words from Isaiah on this battle *(Isaiah 13:2-12 [see appendix]*.

Now back to Revelation 16 and we begin with the 17<sup>th</sup> verse reading, **"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."** The voice from heaven announced the end of all things to come to pass this side of life within the mysteries of the Little Book. Here is what was kept secret from the Prophet Daniel who asked God as to the end of the wonders. But the Book was sealed with seven seals unto this day. In verse 18 of this chapter, the announcement from heaven brought thundering and lightning and a great earthquake such as never was. Verses 19 and 20 tell us by the great earthquake the cities of the nations will be so violent that not a building will be left in its place and all of the mountains will be leveled, and all of the islands will be submerged beneath the sea waters. At this point Man will have no shelter.

Verse 21 of the chapter reads: "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." A talent is about fifty (50) pounds in weight; thus, the dying words of the wicked are blasphemy against God. But this plague will be brought against the host of the wicked as they stand on one of the mountains against Christ.

Again, your attention is called to Revelation 19<sup>th</sup> chapter where the finishing blow will be dealt to the world of wicked and wicked angels of the unseen. We start with the reading of 19:17-18, (v17) "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; (v18) 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." Next notice Ezekiel 39:17-19 [see appendix]. Here we see that both the Prophet Ezekiel and John had vision of this great battle.