

## **The Road to Armageddon.**

**11102021**

Sister Shelbia thanked everyone for getting on our Bible Study today; and reminded us that this is well worth our time. She said that today's lesson is very heavy! She opened us with prayer.

Our Father,

Again, we are thankful to get to do this and that all the ladies have the ability to get on the study.

These are last days here and we have business to do!

The Bible and your Word is True!

Its coming down quickly!

Help us be effective for You, God!

May people who are not ready for the rapture get an interest in Your Word.

Help us to do what you need us to do in this very important time.

In Jesus name, Amen.

## **Pastor Robert Jeffress, The Road to Armageddon.**

Last Sunday night because of spring break we didn't have our r regular Sunday night activities. So I was home and decided to watch an old movie. Given what is happening in our world with coronavirus, I thought this was an appropriate movie to watch. If you have seen it, its called "Contagion".

It has an all-star cast, came out in 2011 and it was eerie how the plot line of the movie coincides with what we are going thru today. A mysterious, animal born virus begins in China and spreads throughout the world at a pandemic rate; and the CDC races to discover a cure for this virus.

Now if you freak out easily don't watch the movie. I know some of you are going to do it just cause I said that. The part of the movie that caught my attention the most was the depiction of the social unrest because of this unknown virus. People breaking into other peoples homes, stealing food, customers at a pharmacy thinking there was a cure and over ran the counter. Tremendous social unrest!

As I watched, it reminded me of stories my grandparents use to tell me about what it was like in world war 2, when our country was facing an existential threat - the whole world was; The rise of Adolph Hitler.

But in spite of that threat the American people came together. They bonded together, accepted rationing, putting the interest of others above themselves.

I compared that to what I was seeing in the movie Sunday night and what I'm seeing on TV right now. People having fist fights at Costco's over toilet paper. And it makes you wonder, do we have the same American resolve, strength of character that our forefathers had, that got them thru World War 2? I think there's a serious reason to question that.

And then fast forward to the last 7 years of earth's history, The Great Tribulation.

How is the world going to respond to epidemics, even more severe than what we are seeing right now. And imagine what the response will be when all the Christians are removed? How will people react? Its going to be an unprecedented time of anarchy and chaos in the world and we get a good picture of that in the passage we are going to look at today.

If you have your Bible, **I want you to turn to Revelation 16 as we continue our study in this last book of the Bible with a message entitled, The Road to Armageddon.**

Literally, today, we are going to see the road that leads to the final battle, Armageddon.

Now for the many of you that have just joined us today, we are in a year long study of the last book of the Bible, Revelation, that describes the literal, visual return of Jesus Christ, to set up His kingdom on earth.

And ladies and gentlemen, you need to know that **OUR HOPE IS JESUS CHRIST, WHO IS COMING BACK AGAIN!**

This world we are living in right now is not the world that God intended originally.

Man's rebellion against God brought the disorder we see in the universe today, but this world will not be that way forever. **One day Jesus Christ is coming back to reclaim those people who belong to Him and to recreate the world that is free of sin, sickness, and disease and every melody we face today.** That's the theme of Revelation.

Now in Revelation 6-19, the author describes the final period of time, The Great Tribulation, that will result in the battle of Armageddon and the return of Jesus Christ. And you remember God pours out his judgment on the earth during these last 7 years in a series of three judgments:

- Revelation 6 - The Seal Judgments

- Revelation 8 & 9 - The Trumpet Judgments

- And then for several chapters we have an interlude;

- and then we come to Revelation 16 - God's final judgments; the Bowl Judgments.

I want you to notice the order to pour out the Bowl Judgments in

***Revelation 16:1***

***1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.***

There are people who said I don't believe in a God of wrath. The scripture says that God is angry. The fierce anger of God is literally what it means. I don't believe in a God of wrath, I believe in a God of love.

Well, if that's what you believe in, you believe in a God of your imagination, not the God of the Bible! Make no mistake about it. **God is love - he loves you and me so much that he sent his ONLY SON, JESUS CHRIST, to pay the penalty for our sin; but God is also a God of justice.** He cannot allow sin to go unpunished and this pouring out His wrath is a display of God's justice, His holiness.

## **THE ORDER TO “POUR OUT THE BOWLS”**

Now before we look at each of the 7 bowls (Saucer or shallow pan), let me make **3 general observations of these final judgments:**

**A. The Bowl Judgments Follow Each Other in Rapid Succession.** In your English text, it will say chapter 16 and the 1st and 2nd and 3rd angel are mentioned, but the word angel was not in the original text. Instead it was simply inserted by a translator somewhere later on.

*In the Greek text it simply says the first, the second, the third, the fourth, the fifth. The idea is it repetitively stands out over months of time.*

**B. The Bowl Judgments Are Similar to the Trumpet Judgments.** As we go through these you're gonna feel like you're in dejavu all over again. These sound similar familiar to us because they are similar to the ones in Revelation 8 & 9, The Trumpet Judgments with one major difference.

**C. The Bowl Judgments are unique in their severity.**

As we may remember, The trumpet judgments said 1/3 of the earth was affected; 1/3 of the sea, 1/3 of the animals, etc. These are over the whole earth!

Now, having given that overview, let's look at the execution of The Bowls as they are poured out. **One thing you will note over and over again, these judgments are against Non-Christians on the earth. Those that took the mark of the beast. They chose not to follow Christ. They took the mark of the beast in order to buy and sell; food for their families, but these are specifically targeted to those who took the mark of the beast.**

Are you saying there are going to be Christians during the tribulation? Oh Yes! They are. What about the rapture? Remember at the rapture, which could happen in the middle of this service. It looks like it's already taken place (LOL), could happen any time. It's when all Christians will be removed from the earth and then comes the tribulation.

**Remember when the 144,000 Jewish evangelists (Revelation 7), will be sealed and saved as God's missionaries. They will be sent throughout the world/earth to preach the gospel; and there will be people who become Christians during the tribulation time. They will pay a steep price to do so. Many will be martyred to do so, but there will be people who become Christians during the tribulation and they will be spared these judgments. God will make sure they do not experience His wrath.**

The reason is, when you trust in Christ as your savior, you are forever free of having to experience God's punishment. ***Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.***

You are exempt from God's judgments, not from problems, but you are exempt from God's judgment! And so, **these bowl judgments are specifically against non-believers!**

***2 And the first went, and poured out his vial (bowl) upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.***

The first bowl judgment was skin boils.

Look at verse 2. Many commentators say the Greek word, Hellcos - is used to describe the boils God placed on the Egyptians; and the boils that Job experienced when he went thru his test of faith. They are the same boils we are talking about here. Let me describe what the boils were - the skin oozes with puss, they turn darker in color, attracting worms - before becoming crusty and hard; and they itch terribly. Remember Job who took broken pottery to scrape his boils. We don't know what form they come in. Perhaps its a result of chemical warfare, but whatever the reason, these are horrendous boils.

***3 And the second angel poured out his vial (bowl) upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.***

Remember, the second trumpet judgment killed 1/3 of the sea, but notice in verse 3, the second angel poured out his bowl and it became blood like that of a dead man and every living thing in the sea died. Just imagine what this would do to our eco system. Just imagine having billions of fish on the surface of the water under the hot sun. The stench that would come up from the oceans. That's what Johns vision was - where every living thing in the sea died.

***4 And the third angel poured out his vial (bowl) upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.***

This is on fresh water. The 3rd trumpet judgment destroyed 1/3 of the fresh water supply including the rivers and streams, but this is much more severe. Can you imagine what it would be like to have no fresh water available? What it would do to our world? We are told man can live 30 days without food, but you can only go 2 - 3 days without water. This is one reason we know at this point we are very close to the return of Jesus Christ because Jesus said if it the days of the tribulation weren't cut short no one would be alive. All of the fresh water supply is going to be destroyed!

***5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.***

Per the angel of the waters....what is that? Apparently God has angels for everything. There's an angel for the waters, seas and rivers of the world. This minister of water says, this verse.

***6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.***

The angel is saying that they got what they deserved. They are forced to drink blood. They got what they deserved. They spilled the blood of your saints so they got what they deserved.

*Los Tolionas - the law of retribution. A punishment suitable to fit the crime. An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.*

The thing is that God has given them exactly what they deserve. God has the ability to do that. The last Pastor Warren Wurnsby said it this way, Pharaoh tried to drown the Jewish boy babies, but it was the army that eventually drowned in the Red Sea.

In the Old Testament, Haman intended to hang Malachi on the gallows; and to exterminate all the Jews, but he himself was hanged on the gallows and his family was exterminated. King Saul refused to obey God and slay the Amalakites, so in turn he was slain by an Amalakite. That's the principal here. An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

*I imagine some of you are thinking, well that's what Moses said, but Jesus said love your enemies. Turn the other cheek.*

Why can't God let it go and get over it? Why does he get to apply the law, an eye for an eye? Why don't I get to do that?

**Because God alone is Holy. ONLY GOD IS HOLY! Only God is able to perfectly design a punishment that perfectly fits the crime. You and I aren't able to do that. ONLY GOD CAN DO THAT!** So the angel says you are righteous to do that very thing

***7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.***

What does he mean he heard the altar say? Those are the tribulation saints that are under the altar. They were martyred. They are the ones whose blood was spilled by the worshippers of the antichrist.

***When they see these people being made to drink blood, being punished for what they had done to the martyrs, these martyrs cry out - You Go God! Give them what they deserve! They deserve this punishment.***

Again, we say, shouldn't they forgive those who killed them? **NO** they are doing exactly what's right.

One of the basic misconceptions people have about forgiveness is this: **They think when you forgive somebody, you automatically give up your desire to see them treated justly. No! When you forgive someone you are giving up your right to vengeance,,,,, but you don't give up your desire for justice. Justice is what God may require from those who wrong you.**

If you are married and have a child who is murdered, yes, you are to forgive that murderer. You give up the right to vengeance, but you don't give up your right to justice. You want to law enforcement officials as Gods instruments to execute justice on those that have wronged you and your children.

**When you forgive somebody, you say God I'm not going to be the one who hurts them, I'm going to let you settle the score instead".**

You know we have made forgiveness so hard for people because we falsely tell people that if they forgive somebody, they give up their right to justice. NO!

You can't give up your desire for justice!

You are made in the image of God. **God is a God of justice and he made us to want justice as well. That is why these tribulation martyrs (saints) are rejoicing when God executes His judgment.**

***8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.***

The fourth trumpet judgment decreased the intensity of the sunlight, but this bowl judgment is going to increase the intensity of the sunlight upon the earth.

***9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.***

We don't know how this intensity occurs in the sun's rays upon the earth. Does God alter the sun's tilt of the axis? Does He alter the orbit around the sun? We don't know what happens. Could it be that he destroys the ozone that blocks out UV and UVB rays, so earth will feel the full brunt of the sun. He doesn't answer this question but he does say that people will be covered with terrible, intense sores.

You can imagine skin cancer that's incurable. The blindness of seeing the sun full strength. All kinds of afflictions are going to occur during this time.

What do you think they are going to do after having these boils, the oozing of puss, thirsting to death...**wouldn't this be a good time to repent? No, they don't repent. They blaspheme the name of God who has the power over these plagues and they did not repent so as to give God the glory. That is the heart of the unbeliever. He refuses to repent no matter what's happening around him.**

Now I saw a great illustration of this, this week. I was looking this week at the Drudge news sight. There was a story about the most inclusive club in the world that plans orgies for the wealthiest men and women in the world. You put a mask on and pay tens of thousands of dollars and you go and this exclusive club is saying "We are proceeding with our plans with our Orgy next month. We don't care one thing about this Covid. We don't care about this infection. We are going ahead with our plans."

***These people have so hardened their heart against God, that they can't feel the conviction of God and they refuse to repent!***

It reminds me of something I read about a marshal arts technique called the iron palm. People in marshal arts know that before competition they need to take their open palm and strike it against a hard object and if they do that it develops calluses on their hand so their opponent will feel the blow they receive more strongly. And so they do this repeatedly in training. They strike that blunt object. The only problem is they can't feel anything in their hand any longer.

*Blaspheme means to strike against. That's what an unbeliever does. Instead of repenting, he strikes against God. But God is an immovable object. He doesn't change, he doesn't alter, he doesn't bend. The only person who is injured in blaspheme is the person who is an unbeliever. As he strikes out against God, He so hardens his own conscious that he is no longer able to hear the conviction of God. He is no longer capable of repentance. That's what's going to happen in this 4th bowl judgment.*

***10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,***

World wide darkness! The 5th trumpet judgment brought darkness upon the whole earth. But the bowl judgment brings ***darkness over a particular place.***

***11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.*** This is targeted darkness. **It comes over the kingdom of the beast, the antichrist. Where is the kingdom of the beast? Revelation says It will be Jerusalem.**

Remember, after signing the peace treaty with Israel, the antichrist breaks the treaty and he sets up his false kingdom there in the city of Jerusalem. *Its the city of Jerusalem that will be darkened. Only the unbelievers will be affected by this.*

Could it be a solar eclipse that causes this?

Failure in the power grid?

We don't have the explanation of how it happens, but there's something about darkness especially in a time of darkness, that exasperates the fear and terror.

There is an **apocryphal book, called the wisdom of Solomon.** It describes what it was like in Egypt when God darkened the nation of Egypt and one of the plagues during the time of Moses. No where were they safe from the fear of terrifying noises. They were terrified by the sounds of hissing snakes and wild animals outside. They were so frightened they kept their eyes closed and whatever they feared became even more frightening.

*The Egyptians slept in restlessness because of the horrible and unexpected nightmares brought on by the surrender of their souls to the forces of evil. The slightest noise paralyzed them with fear and brought on their worst fears.*

It will be that way with the 5th judgment. Now look at the 6th bowl judgment. You'll understand why I titled this message the Road to Armageddon.

***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.***

What is he talking about? *In Revelation 9 we saw the prolog to this about the demonic spirits being unleashed at the Euphrates River to prepare for the invasion of the 200 million person army from the east. And here you see it again. Its going to be dried up for the movement of the kings from the east.* We don't know where these 200 million will come from. Some say China, cause they have millions of people; or Iran; or an amalgamation of several nations that come, but the river is dried up to prepare the way for the kings of the east to come to Israel.

***13 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.***

***14 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.***

(Skip verse 15 for now.)

***16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.***

Who was gathered? *The demons have gathered the kings of the world at Armageddon. Armageddon, literally the mount of Megiddo.*

Many of us have been to this place. Underneath this mountain of megeddo is the vast plain of Jezrell. It is massive. Napoleon said its the most massive field for battle on the whole plant. It is the sign of the final world conflict? How will it occur? Have you ever heard the saying he who calls the shots, takes the shots.

Most likely the kings of the east who are under the thumb of the antichrist, blame him for all the plagues that have come upon the earth. Its natural to blame the leader for anything that happens, so *they decide its time to overthrow the antichrist. Why do they think they can succeed at that? They are lured there by the demons of the antichrist.*

**They are all under the direction of God himself. He's bringing the kinds of the world together in one place in order to experience His judgment.**

If you've seen the plain of Jezrell, you know as massive as it is, its not large enough for 200 million people. Remember this battle is really a war that extends up and down the length of Israel for 200 Miles. Remember, we saw the blood of people will flow up to the bridles on the horses (4 1/2 feet). **But Armageddon is the center piece of this battle and they all will be gathered together there for this great battle.**



1 Kings 22: The story of how the evil spirits brought King Ahab into Eliad, where he was destroyed. It was God who used the demons to do that. God is sovereign even over demons. He uses them to execute these things as well.

*1 Kings 22:*

*1 And they continued three years without war between Syria and Israel.*

*2 And it came to pass in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel.*

*3 And the king of Israel said unto his servants, Know ye that Ramoth in Gilead is ours, and we be still, and take it not out of the hand of the king of Syria?*

*4 And he said unto Jehoshaphat, Wilt thou go with me to battle to Ramothgilead? And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, I am as thou art, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses.*

*5 And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day.*

*6 Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall I go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king.*

*7 And Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him?*

*8 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.*

*9 Then the king of Israel called an officer, and said, Hasten hither Micaiah the son of Imlah.*

*10 And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah sat each on his throne, having put on their robes, in a void place in the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them.*

*11 And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made him horns of iron: and he said, Thus saith the LORD, With these shalt thou push the Syrians, until thou have consumed them.*

*12 And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, Go up to Ramothgilead, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the king's hand.*

*13 And the messenger that was gone to call Micaiah spake unto him, saying, Behold now, the words of the prophets declare good unto the king with one mouth: let thy word, I pray thee, be like the word of one of them, and speak that which is good.*

*14 And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak.*

*15 So he came to the king. And the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall we forbear? And he answered him, Go, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king.*

*16 And the king said unto him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the LORD?*

*17 And he said, I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace.*

*18 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil?*

*19 And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left.*

*20 And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner.*

*21 And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him.*

*22 And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit*

in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.

23 Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee.

24 But Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee?

25 And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see in that day, when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself.

26 And the king of Israel said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son;

27 And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace.

28 And Micaiah said, If thou return at all in peace, the LORD hath not spoken by me. And he said, Harken, O people, every one of you.

29 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramothgilead.

30 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and enter into the battle; but put thou on thy robes. And the king of Israel disguised himself, and went into the battle.

31 But the king of Syria commanded his thirty and two captains that had rule over his chariots, saying, Fight neither with small nor great, save only with the king of Israel.

32 And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, Surely it is the king of Israel. And they turned aside to fight against him: and Jehoshaphat cried out.

33 And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots perceived that it was not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him.

34 And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded.

35 And the battle increased that day: and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even: and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot.

36 And there went a proclamation throughout the host about the going down of the sun, saying, Every man to his city, and every man to his own country.

37 So the king died, and was brought to Samaria; and they buried the king in Samaria.

38 And one washed the chariot in the pool of Samaria; and the dogs licked up his blood; and they washed his armour; according unto the word of the LORD which he spake.

39 Now the rest of the acts of Ahab, and all that he did, and the ivory house which he made, and all the cities that he built, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

40 So Ahab slept with his fathers; and Ahaziah his son reigned in his stead.

41 And Jehoshaphat the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel.

42 Jehoshaphat was thirty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

43 And he walked in all the ways of Asa his father; he turned not aside from it, doing that which was right in the eyes of the LORD: nevertheless the high places were not taken away; for the people offered and burnt incense yet in the high places.

44 And Jehoshaphat made peace with the king of Israel.

45 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, and his might that he shewed, and how he warred, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

46 And the remnant of the sodomites, which remained in the days of his father Asa, he took out of the land.

47 There was then no king in Edom: a deputy was king.

***48 Jehoshaphat made ships of Tharshish to go to Ophir for gold: but they went not; for the ships were broken at Eziongeber.***

***49 Then said Ahaziah the son of Ahab unto Jehoshaphat, Let my servants go with thy servants in the ships. But Jehoshaphat would not.***

***50 And Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Jehoram his son reigned in his stead.***

***51 Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned two years over Israel.***

***52 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother, and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin:***

***53 For he served Baal, and worshipped him, and provoked to anger the LORD God of Israel, according to all that his father had done.***

This week I was reading about Dr. Criswall, our great pastor for 50 years, who use to preach at this church. In his sermon on Armageddon in 1963, and this particular passage from Revelation 16, he told that the week before he had been on an airplane going from Los Angeles to Detroit and found himself seated next to one of the most famous generals of all of history. General Omar Bradley, who was key in defeating Adolph Hitler and in our success in the Korean War.

Dr. Criswall said he knew he would be preaching on this passage so he just thought he would ask the General a question. He asked General Bradley, with all the nuclear weapons we have now, do you think there will ever be a time when we won't need an army or foot soldiers? General Bradley quickly replied and emphatically said, NEVER! Never will we ever need an army and this is why.

*For nuclear weapons to impose the most damage possible you have to gather all your enemies up in one place. That's what the army does with foot soldiers. You have to get them in one place to make the nuclear weapon the most effective. Its not effective if they are all over the world. You've got to get them together in one place.*

That's exactly what happens here at the final world conflict. All the forces are centered here in Israel. **Its the great battle of the Lord. That's what John saw in this place called Armageddon.**

Now that prepares for the final judgment!

***17 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 final destruction - now that prepares for the final judgment. **It is the final judgment!**

***18 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.***

We don't know again what this is, but the fact that its released in the air. Could it be a nuclear exchange that takes place?

***19 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.***

What is this great city? lol at Revelation 14. **Its Jerusalem, the place where our Lord was crucified.** *And the cities of the world fell - Paris, New York, Washington, London, etc what is Babylon? It's not a city. It's a world system.*

***20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.***

What does it mean? It talks about this catalyst in explosion. *And the mountains were not found. They are leveled.*

***21 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.*** We get upset if we get a pea size or gold ball size hail stone. *They blaspheme God again because His plague was extremely severe.*

**How does this apply to us today?**

I just have one scripture to share with you today. Write it down, circle it and remember it the rest of your life: **Gods judgment is not always immediate, but its always inevitable!**

Let me say it again: **Gods judgment is not always immediate, but its always inevitable!**

There's an intriguing verse of scripture - ***Ecclesiastes 8:11 that says "because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are fully given to do evil".***

In other words, when people do wrong, and when punishment doesn't come immediately, they just want to sin more and more.

**Its the same in our relationship with God. If we go on sinning and there's no result of it, no discomfort in our lives because of it, we are tempted to think maybe God isn't as concerned about sin as Pastor Jeffress says he is.**

**Maybe we think I've got a special exemption from God because of who I am or maybe they think 'maybe God doesn't exist'. Because surely if he existed, If he saw me sinning, surely he wouldn't let me continue.**

**People who reason that way confuse God's patience with God's tolerance.**

**Don't make that mistake.**

Today if you are living in rebellion against God and you've had no judgment in your life, Don't confuse Gods patience with Gods tolerance in your life. He's giving you an opportunity, perhaps a last opportunity to repent and turn to him.

And the same thing is true for the nation and world we live in. Just because of these judgments, we shouldn't confuse God's patience with God's tolerance.

**This is a time for us to confess our sins and to ask for Gods mercy in our life!**

**We shouldn't, as a world, confuse Gods patience with God's tolerance.** Just because these judgments described in the Bible haven't come yet, doesn't mean they aren't coming.

**There will be a day when God's patience runs out and all that will remain is the terrifying expectation of God's judgment.**

I want to close by asking you to go back to verse 15.

***15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.***

**His second coming is coming. His literal physical returning to earth is coming; and blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes so he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.**

What in the world is this about? What's this thing about Jesus coming back and you don't want to be naked?

Back in 1992 when our family moved to Wichita Falls to become the pastor, it was December and our house wasn't worked out yet, so they put us up in a nice hotel. But there was one exception - they had a faulty fire system and the alarm went off at 3 a.m.

We ran out into the parking lot, thinking there was a fire. I stood there in my pajamas and was so embarrassed not to mention, so cold. But even though I was embarrassed, I wasn't as embarrassed as some of those people who had much less than pajama's on. And I'll just leave it there.

They were humiliated.

**This is what the Word of God is saying.**

**When the warning came, they didn't have time to put their clothes on. This is what the word of God is saying - when that time of God's return occurs, you don't want to be caught naked and without the proper clothing.**

**He's talking about your spiritual clothing. How are you going to be dressed spiritually?**

If you think you can approach God in your own righteousness or goodness, you are going to be embarrassed when Christ returns.

**Remember, the Bible says your righteousness is like a filthy rags.**

***Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.***

**The only way you want to meet God is to be dressed in the righteousness of His son Christ. When you trust in Christ as your Savior God takes all of the wrath and anger and judgment that you and I deserve and he pours it out on his son, Jesus Christ.**

**That's what happened on the cross 2000 years ago. Jesus took all the wrath of God, on the cross, for me and you. God had to punish someone.**

*Jesus took that punishment and when you trust in Christ as your savior, Jesus takes all of God's wrath and you get all of Jesus's righteousness. He puts on you the spiritual clothing of His own son so when God see's you as a Christian He doesn't see our failure, but He sees the righteousness of his Son, Jesus Christ.*

**That's the only way to be dressed spiritually when you meet the Lord one day.**

That's why the end writer says when he shall come with the trumpet sounds, oh may I then in Him be found. Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand. All other ground is sinking sand!

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Sister Shelbia says, **We definitely do not want to be here when these things happen!**

***Lamentations 3:22-23***

***22 It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.***

***23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.***

Shelbia has a heaviness on her - a gray cloud because there are those that are not ready for the rapture - its a heaviness knowing a lot will be left behind. I pray we are each spreading Gods Word!

I want to review from Brother Jack's book, pages 272 - 278.

*We have little time - He will show us the most important things to do each day - we have a sense of urgency because we are so close to the rapture.*

***2 Corinthians 6:2 Now is the day of salvation. 2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)***

***Romans 1:***

***1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,  
2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)***

***3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;***

***4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:***

***5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:***

***6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:***

***7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.***

***8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.***

***9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;***

***10 Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.***

***11 For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;***

***12 That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.***

***13 Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.***

***14 I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.***

***15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.***

***16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.***

***17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.***

***18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;***

**19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.**

**20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:**

**21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**

**22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,**

**23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.**

**24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:**

**25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.**

**26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:**

**27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.**

**28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;**

**29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,**

**30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,**

**31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:**

**32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.**

Shelbia said that she had never realized what verse 30 says until now. **‘Inventors of evil things’.** What does this mean?

Shelbia is also viewing a DVD series about artificial intelligence. **She encourages us to view #10, the 2nd part as this talks about the inventors of evil things.**

The darkness is starting to expand on earth. **Joel speaks of “The Day of The Lord” (Joel 2:1-2)**  
**1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;**



***2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.***

***Joel 2:31 says: "The Sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and 'the terrible day of the Lord comes."***

Now this is one of those places that we believe to be, not only literal, but Spiritual as well. Spiritual darkness is creeping over our own land like a dark cloud.

The belief's and customs of our past are being replaced by strange and bizarre ideas and practices, resembling those that have brought judgment and destruction upon civilizations of the past.

**Our society shudders at the thought of the pagan practice of human sacrifice, and then kills the unborn, with the blessing of the Law of the Land. We delve into the world of the Occult through astrology and other means such as a fascination with the demonic through the entertainment media, etc. Our Economic system, our Political system, our Educational system (with its absurd fascination with the theory of evolution), along with our News media, in many areas, are based upon half truths, and in some cases, outright lies and deceit. We literally live in the AGE OF DECEIT!**

**Someone has said,: "In a cultural war, truth is the first casualty".**

We are in a war, fighting unseen ads and unseen forces, that have an agenda, and that is to destroy every estate of God in our society! The Dark cloud looms on the horizon! ***"And they gnawed their tongues in pain:"***. A futile attempt alleviate the pain from their sores, the drought, and the fierce heat, and the darkness that could be felt!!

***Verse 11: And blasphemed the God of Heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.***

#### **THE GOD OF HEAVEN:**

This is an interesting title. It occurs 5 times in ***(Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.)***

***In (Jonah 1:9 And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land.)***

And here in (***Revelation 16:11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.***)

**It distinguishes the one true God from all others.**

Another interesting thing that comes out of the text here is that Judgment does not bring repentance. *You would think with everything coming down here, that would be enough to bring them to their knees in repentance. But instead, they BLASPHEME THE GOD OF HEAVEN!! Each time, we notice, there is NO REPENTANCE! Only Grace and Mercy produces repentance. And that time is past! “THE GOD OF HEAVEN” is not in judgment mode! AND THEY REPENTED NOT OF THEIR DEEDS.*

***Verse 12: And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way might be made ready for the kings that (Come) from the sun rising.***

SIXTH VIAL (bowl): Poured out upon the Great River Euphrates: The river Euphrates is one of the interesting mysteries in the Bible. It shows up 21 times in scripture. It first shows up in (***Genesis 2:14 And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates***) as one of the four rivers running from the Garden of Eden. And even though it may not be on its original course, it is still in existence today, in that part of the world. **And when the 6th Bowl is poured out, it (the Euphrates River), will be DRIED UP to make a way for the Kings from the Sunrising (East) to march to Armageddon!**

The Euphrates River was the eastern boundary of the land that God promised to Abraham in (***Genesis 15:18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:***). It is between 17 & 18 hundred miles one way, flowing from East Central Turkey thru Syria and Iraq, eventually joining the Tigris and flowing into the Persian Gulf. In the 1991 Gulf War the coalition forces led by the Americans trapped Saddam Hussein's forces against the Euphrates River.

This river was prominent in the beginning of civilization, and here we find it will be prominent in the ending of Civilization.

If the bulk of the world's population is in the East; after the Euphrates River is gone, the great hordes in the East that have never moved west **will converge on Palestine to the Battle of “THE GREAT DAY OF GOD ALMIGHTY”**. The time that Jesus spoke about in ***Matthew 25:32 - And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:***

The judgment of the nations, has come. We will talk more on this as we move along.

***Verse 13: And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the east, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.***

### **THREE UNCLEAN SPIRITS LIKE FROGS:**

***In Genesis 8:1-15***

***1 And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged;***

***2 The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained;***

***3 And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated.***

***4 And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.***

***5 And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen.***

***6 And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made:***

***7 And he sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth.***

***8 Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground;***

***9 But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth: then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark.***

***10 And he stayed yet other seven days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark;***

***11 And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf pluckt off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth.***

***12 And he stayed yet other seven days; and sent forth the dove; which returned not again unto him any more.***

***13 And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry.***

***14 And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried.***

***15 And God spake unto Noah, saying,***

We find the second plague of Egypt, which was frogs.

**It might help to understand that plague when we realize that the frogs were sacred to the Egyptians. They were a symbol of fertility.** The Egyptians wore amulets (good luck charms), in the shape of a frog.

The intentional killing of a frog was prohibited because they were considered sacred animals, and again, were symbolic of fertility.

*So God took this representation of one of their god's and multiplied them so that they were everywhere; inside houses, in beds, outside, everywhere, until they were literally sick of dogs!*

But something strange about the plague of frogs in Egypt, is that we discover they were charlatans, but *a closer examination will reveal that they did in fact possess demonic powers; and the frogs did respond to them.*

**But that these THREE UNCLEAN SPIRITS LIKE FROGS, are not really frogs is clear from the text. They are...**

***Verse 14: 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 rest day of God Almighty.***

**FOR THEY ARE THE SPIRITS OF DEMONS, WORKING MIRACLES:** They are the spirits of demons, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth, and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of The Great Day of God Almighty.

Larkin says: "They are the Seducing Spirits who go forth preaching the Doctrine of Devils in the latter times, of whom Paul wants Timothy (***1 Timothy 4:1 - Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;***)

*They are sent out by the satanic trinity (the dragon, the beast and the false prophet), on a miracle working ministry."*

**The timing of this event must be the very last days of the tribulation, since the next bowl immediately concludes the Tribulation with the destruction of Babylon.**

**TO GATHER THEM TO THE BATTLE OF THAT GREAT DAY OF GOD ALMIGHTY:** This is an allusion to what will be called in verse 16, Armageddon.

**And its interesting to note that this Armageddon we are leading up to, is supernaturally inspired.**

That all the Nations of the world are going to go to war. Sounds pretty normal, right!

**But Whom are they going against??? God Almighty!!! Where are they going to do this? In Israel!!!**

**At a place called Megiddo, (Armageddon).** This will truly be the judgment of the nations of the world. We have not gone thru 6 bowls, after which we have a one verse break, verse 15, with a momentary change of subject. Here it is....

***Verse 15: Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.***

**BEHOLD I COME AS A THIEF:** We are familiar with this idea. We learned from Paul in **1 Thessalonians 5:4** ***But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief that this day will not overtake the church as a thief; because we (the church) are Children of Light,*** as he explains in verse 5 of this chapter. In verses 1-11 of chapter 5, Paul explains explicitly that “The Day of the Lord” which is where we are in Revelation, does NOT concern the church. So this “Behold I come as a Thief” is NOT a message concerning the church. It is for our information only, to point out the fact that His coming as a thief will slip up on the unbelievers. But, if we are Born Again and have some knowledge of the End Times, we can know that - that day is approaching at break neck speed!

#### ***1 Thessalonians 5:1-11***

***1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.***

***2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.***

***3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.***

***4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.***

***5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.***

***6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.***

***7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.***

***8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.***

***9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,***

***10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.***

***11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.***

Shelbia reminds us that this document from Brother Jack was written and documented in 2009, so she believes we are much farther along than what we are studying today.

**BLESSED IS HE THAT WATCHETH, AND KEEPETH HIS GARMENTS, LEST HE WALK NAKED AND THEY SEE HIS SHAME:** The essential idea here is VIGILANCE.

But concerning the phrase: “keepeth his garments”, Adam Clark says: ‘here is a plain allusion to the office of him who was called the prefect or overseer, of the mountain of the temple.

His custom was to make his rounds during the watches of the night; and if he found any of the Levites sleeping on his watch, he had authority to beat him with a stick, and burn his vestments.

Such a person being found on his return home naked, it was at once known that he had been found asleep at his post, had been beaten, and his clothes burnt; thus his shame was seen - he was reproached for his infidelity and irreligion.

Also; the old English word '*habit*' referred to one's '*manner of living*'.

The French adopted it to refer to one's clothing. So it is really our way of life; which brings us back to what we said in the beginning, that the essential idea here is **Vigilance**.

***Verse 16: And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue, Armageddon.***

**ARMAGEDDON: (Har-Megiddo)** - This is the only occurrence of the word Armageddon in scripture. There are many references to it. **It means "Mount of Megiddo"**, In the Hebrew, '**Har**' means **Mountain: & Megiddo is the name of the mountain**. It is alluded to in ***Zephaniah 3:8-Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.***

***Zechariah 12:11 -In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.***

***And 2 Chronicles 35:22 - Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo.***

Well, where is Megiddo? It is a literal place on the planet earth. Its about 60 miles north of Jerusalem. It is a mountain adjacent to the plain of Esdraelon, and overlooking the valley of Jezreel. It was here that Gideon and his 300 men defeated the Midianites and Amalekites. Many other decisive battles, too numerous to mention, were fought here. This area, and the valley of Jezreel, will become the battlefield of the world here in ***Revelation 16:16 - And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.***

**Where the battle of "The Great Day of God Almighty" mentioned in verse 14, will take place.** "Napoleon is said to have stated with deep emotion after his first sight of this great valley, 'This is the ideal battleground for all the armies of the world'. *Little did he realize that prophecy had preceded him, and that it will indeed, be the world's great battleground.* We will talk more about Armageddon when we get to chapter 19. Meanwhile, the 6th bowl followed by the 7th and last...

**Verses 17 & 18: 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!**

Seventh vial (bowl): The seventh angel poured out his vial into the air. A strange phrase. Does this mean the atmosphere that we breathe? Maybe! But maybe it means something more, remember one of satan's titles in **Ephesians 2:2 -Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: "The prince of the Power of the Air,"** Whatever that means. I think what it means is that this Bowl is being poured out upon. We know from **Ephesians 6:12 That he (satan) rules in high places.** So whatever this all means, it seems the 7th bowl is being poured out on satan's domain; and this brings about cataclysmic results on the earth.

#### **A GREAT VOICE OUT OF THE TEMPLE OF HEAVEN:**

This is the last time (**Rev 16:17 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.**) that we will see the **TEMPLE IN HEAVEN**. A Great Voice: This voice is not identified, but I believe it is the Voice of the Lord Jesus Christ. Once again, as He did at the Cross, He will say: **"It is Done"; "It is Finished"**.

**At the cross, His work of redemption was finished: at the pouring out of the 7th bowl, as this judgment falls, we are seeing the culmination (the winding up), of "THE TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE" which will finish God's judgment. IT IS DONE!!!**

With this bowl comes widespread destruction, along with a great hail!!! Now remember these things are happening in rapid succession, at the end of the week, one building upon the other. Let me explain: At the 7th seal, there were voices and thunders, and lightnings, and an earthquake (**Rev 8:5**). At the 7th trumpet, there were lightnings, voices, thunders, and an earthquake, and great hail (**Rev 11:19**). At the pouring out of the 7th bowl, there were voices, thunders, lightnings, and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great (**Rev 16:18 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**).

Then verse 21 continues the thought:

**21 - "And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent."** So we see these judgments build up to a horrendous climax.

***Verse 19: 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 THE GREAT CITY WAS DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS:** the commentaries were pretty evenly divided as to whether, “The Great City” is Jerusalem or Babylon.

In his commentary on Revelation, DDR. Tim LaHaye says: *This final judgment of God will appear in the form of “the world’s greatest earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth”.*

*It will destroy ‘the great city,’ meaning the city of Babylon the capital of the world at that time, dividing it into three parts, BUT...some 20 years later in his book, “CHARTING THE END TIMES”, he says: ‘This judgment apparently takes place in conjunction with the return of Christ and is also reported in:*

***Joel 3:14-17***

***14 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.***

***16 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.***

***17 So shall ye 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.***

***Zechariah 14:4-5***

***4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.***

***5 And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.***

***And Matthew 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:***

This worldwide earthquake **will cause JERUSALEM to be split into 3 sections, preparing the way for Millennial changes after the second coming.**

Even prophecy teachers can, over time, change their minds. Bt this is not unusual. For they have more information to work with now, than then. My theological views have been reshaped considerably down thru the years of studying scripture.

Seuss says as: *“The great city here is JERUSALEM, for it is specially distinguished from the cities of the Gentiles, which are entirely refined. This is the time when the Mount of Olives is to*



*cleave in two from east to west, and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south, leaving a very great valley between the two parts."*

***Zechariah 14:4-***

***4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.***

Rev. Clarence Larkin in his commentary on Revelation says: 'This will be the greatest earthquake this world has ever seen. It is foretold in ***Zechariah 14:4-5***. ***So great will it be, that it will level the mountains, destroy islands, and so change the controls and shape of the Land of Palestine's and the surrounding countries and seas, as to make new maps of that part of the world necessary; and it will raise the Dead Sea so that its waters shall flow again into the Red Sea.***

***Ezekiel 47:1-12 -***

***1 Then he brought me forth into the utter court, the way toward the north: and he brought me into the chamber that was over against the separate place, and which was before the building toward the north.***

***2 Before the length of an hundred cubits was the north door, and the breadth was fifty cubits.***

***3 Over against the twenty cubits which were for the inner court, and over against the pavement which was for the utter court, was gallery against gallery in three stories.***

***4 And before the chambers was a walk of ten cubits breadth inward, a way of one cubit; and their doors toward the north.***

***5 Now the upper chambers were shorter: for the galleries were higher than these, than the lower, and than the middlemost of the building.***

***6 For they were in three stories, but had not pillars as the pillars of the courts: therefore the building was straitened more than the lowest and the middlemost from the ground.***

***7 And the wall that was without over against the chambers, toward the utter court on the forepart of the chambers, the length thereof was fifty cubits.***

***8 For the length of the chambers that were in the utter court was fifty cubits: and, lo, before the temple were an hundred cubits.***

***9 And from under these chambers was the entry on the east side, as one goeth into them from the utter court.***

***10 The chambers were in the thickness of the wall of the court toward the east, over against the separate place, and over against the building.***

***11 And the way before them was like the appearance of the chambers which were toward the north, as long as they, and as broad as they: and all their goings out were both according to their fashions, and according to their doors.***

***12 And according to the doors of the chambers that were toward the south was a door in the head of the way, even the way directly before the wall toward the east, as one entereth into them.***

## IT WILL DIVIDE THE “GREAT CITY: JERUSALEM INTO 3 PARTS”.

**THE CITIES OF THE NATIONS FELL:** we see this is not a local disaster, because the cities of the nations fell. This tells us something of the extent and the vast destruction of the earthquake. It will be GLOBAL!

Man has always romanticized cities; and although in recent times, evil is more widespread, from the beginning, cities seem to be symptomatic of evil. There seems to be something inherently evil about cities. They seem to be the centers for satan’s activities.

*The whole world is shaken terribly by this bowl of the wrath of God, and we are told OF NO CITY in all the world that escapes. HAVING SAID THAT; wherever God has chosen to gather the remnant of Israel for their sustenance and protection, will, I believe, be miraculously protected as was the Land of Goshen during the plagues upon Egypt.*

**“AND GREAT BABYLON CAME IN REMEMBRANCE BEFORE GOD, TO GIVE UNTO HER THE CUP OF THE WINE OF THE FIERCENESS OF HIS WRATH: at the preaching of “THE EVER LASTING GOSPEL,”** announcing the judgment to come in *Rev 14:8, we find the angel saying:*

**“BABYLON IS FALLEN, IS FALLEN, THAT GREAT CITY BECAUSE SHE MADE ALL NATIONS DRINK OF THE WINE OF THE WRATH OF HER FORNICATION.”** Here in *Rev 16:19 we see do living unto her (babylon), “THE CUP OF THE WINE OF THE FIERCENESS OF HIS WRATH.”*

So if we are correct in our thinking, there are two cities in view in this verse - Jerusalem and Babylon, the first being Jerusalem, then Babylon being singled out, as it were, from amongst the cities of the nations, for special emphasis concerning her judgment.

***Revelation 16:20 “and every island fled away (vanished) and the mountains were not found” (The mountains vanished too; they flattened out!)***

**JUDGMENT:** MACARTHUR SAYS, ‘this powerful earthquake will radically alter all the earth’s topography, preparing it for the coming millennial kingdom’. We see many times in scripture where God predicts something happening in the near term but as the prophecy builds, it encompasses things far into the future. I believe we have such a prophecy in *Jeremiah 4:*

***1 If thou wilt return, O Israel, saith the LORD, return unto me: and if thou wilt put away thine abominations out of my sight, then shalt thou not remove.***

***2 And thou shalt swear, The LORD liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory.***

***3 For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.***

***4 Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.***

***5 Declare ye in Judah, and publish in Jerusalem; and say, Blow ye the trumpet in the land: cry,***

*gather together, and say, Assemble yourselves, and let us go into the defenced cities.*

*6 Set up the standard toward Zion: retire, stay not: for I will bring evil from the north, and a great destruction.*

*7 The lion is come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he is gone forth from his place to make thy land desolate; and thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant.*

*8 For this gird you with sackcloth, lament and howl: for the fierce anger of the LORD is not turned back from us.*

*9 And it shall come to pass at that day, saith the LORD, that the heart of the king shall perish, and the heart of the princes; and the priests shall be astonished, and the prophets shall wonder.*

*10 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! surely thou hast greatly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, Ye shall have peace; whereas the sword reacheth unto the soul.*

*11 At that time shall it be said to this people and to Jerusalem, A dry wind of the high places in the wilderness toward the daughter of my people, not to fan, nor to cleanse,*

*12 Even a full wind from those places shall come unto me: now also will I give sentence against them.*

*13 Behold, he shall come up as clouds, and his chariots shall be as a whirlwind: his horses are swifter than eagles. Woe unto us! for we are spoiled.*

*14 O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?*

*15 For a voice declareth from Dan, and publisheth affliction from mount Ephraim.*

*16 Make ye mention to the nations; behold, publish against Jerusalem, that watchers come from a far country, and give out their voice against the cities of Judah.*

*17 As keepers of a field, are they against her round about; because she hath been rebellious against me, saith the LORD.*

*18 Thy way and thy doings have procured these things unto thee; this is thy wickedness, because it is bitter, because it reacheth unto thine heart.*

*19 My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.*

*20 Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled: suddenly are my tents spoiled, and my curtains in a moment.*

*21 How long shall I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet?*

*22 For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.*

*23 I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light.*

*24 I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly.*

*25 I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled.*

*26 I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger.*

*27 For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.*

*28 For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black: because I have spoken it, I have purposed it, and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it.*

*29 The whole city shall flee for the noise of the horsemen and bowmen; they shall go into thickets, and climb up upon the rocks: every city shall be forsaken, and not a man dwell therein.*

*30 And when thou art spoiled, what wilt thou do? Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou rentest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair; thy lovers will despise thee, they will seek thy life.*

*31 For I have heard a voice as of a woman in travail, and the anguish as of her that bringeth forth*

*her first child, the voice of the daughter of Zion, that bewaileth herself, that spreadeth her hands, saying, Woe is me now! for my soul is wearied because of murderers.*

Where we see the prophet speaking of judgment as coming upon ISRAEL, thru the Babylonian invasion, and building in intensity, until in verse 23, he describes it as engulfing the whole earth; and so violent and devastating will the judgment be at that time, that it is compared with the original state of the world!! Listen to **Jeremiah 4:23- "I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; and the heavens, they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, and all the hills over back and forth. I beheld and indeed there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled. I beheld and indeed the fruitful land was a wilderness, and all its cities were broken down at the presence of the LORD, by His fierce anger."**

You can see by the structure of the language here that there is more going on than that which happened to Israel during the Babylonian invasion and captivity. And again in **Haggai 2 –**

**1 In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of the LORD by the prophet Haggai, saying,**

**2 Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying,**

**3 Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?**

**4 Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts:**

**5 According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not.**

**6 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;**

**7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.**

**8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.**

**9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.**

**10 In the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying,**

**11 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ask now the priests concerning the law, saying,**

**12 If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, No.**

**13 Then said Haggai, If one that is unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean.**

**14 Then answered Haggai, and said, So is this people, and so is this nation before me, saith the LORD; and so is every work of their hands; and that which they offer there is unclean.**

**15 And now, I pray you, consider from this day and upward, from before a stone was laid upon a stone in the temple of the LORD:**

**16 Since those days were, when one came to an heap of twenty measures, there were but ten: when one came to the pressfat for to draw out fifty vessels out of the press, there were but**

*twenty.*

*17 I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; yet ye turned not to me, saith the LORD.*

*18 Consider now from this day and upward, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, even from the day that the foundation of the LORD's temple was laid, consider it.*

*19 Is the seed yet in the barn? yea, as yet the vine, and the fig tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive tree, hath not brought forth: from this day will I bless you.*

*20 And again the word of the LORD came unto Haggai in the four and twentieth day of the month, saying,*

*21 Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will shake the heavens and the earth;*

*22 And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother.*

*23 In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the LORD, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the LORD of hosts.*

We have a message to those returning from Babylonian exile. But as the prophecy builds, suddenly he fast forwards to a distant, future fulfillment that points, I believe, to the time we are looking at here in Rev 16:20, and even into the Millennium.

Listen to *Haggai 2:6-7* ***“For thus says the LORD of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the LORD Of hosts.***

***Verse 21: 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 therefore was exceeding great.***

**THE PLAGUE OF THE HAIL:** at that time there will fall upon men a great hail out of heaven. This is analogous to the 7th plague on Egypt (which is symbolic of the world,) magnified!!!

***Exodus 9:9-35***

*9 And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt.*

*10 And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast.*

*11 And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians.*

*12 And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had spoken unto Moses.*

*13 And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me.*

*14 For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; that thou mayest know that there is none like me in all the earth.*

*15 For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the earth.*



16 And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.

17 As yet exaltest thou thyself against my people, that thou wilt not let them go?

18 Behold, to morrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as hath not been in Egypt since the foundation thereof even until now.

19 Send therefore now, and gather thy cattle, and all that thou hast in the field; for upon every man and beast which shall be found in the field, and shall not be brought home, the hail shall come down upon them, and they shall die.

20 He that feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his cattle flee into the houses:

21 And he that regarded not the word of the LORD left his servants and his cattle in the field.

22 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch forth thine hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt.

23 And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt.

24 So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

25 And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field.

26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, was there no hail.

27 And Pharaoh sent, and called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, I have sinned this time: the LORD is righteous, and I and my people are wicked.

28 Intreat the LORD (for it is enough) that there be no more mighty thunderings and hail; and I will let you go, and ye shall stay no longer.

29 And Moses said unto him, As soon as I am gone out of the city, I will spread abroad my hands unto the LORD; and the thunder shall cease, neither shall there be any more hail; that thou mayest know how that the earth is the LORD's.

30 But as for thee and thy servants, I know that ye will not yet fear the LORD God.

31 And the flax and the barley was smitten: for the barley was in the ear, and the flax was bolled.

32 But the wheat and the rie were not smitten: for they were not grown up.

33 And Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh, and spread abroad his hands unto the LORD: and the thunders and hail ceased, and the rain was not poured upon the earth.

34 And when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunders were ceased, he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart, he and his servants.

35 And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, neither would he let the children of Israel go; as the LORD had spoken by Moses.

**This miraculous hail storm is the last plague mentioned to come out of the 7th bowl.**

This is the grand finale, like a symphony building to a mighty crescendo.

Every stone about the weight of a talent: the estimates are anywhere from 50-140 pounds.

The Greek talent was about 86 pounds.

The Hebrew talent for the measurement of silver was about 96 points in the English and American system of weights based on a pound of 16 ounces.

In the *Septuagint* a talanton ranged in weight from 108 - 130 pounds.

Whatever weight you choose it will be sufficient to destroy everything in its path

*Well here we are at the big climax, and with all this going on, what do men do?*

**Do they repent? NO! “And men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail.”**

*Question? What was the Old Testament penalty in the Torah for blasphemy? **STONING!!!***

**What does God do to these blasphemers? HE STONES THEM!!!**

Well we have been thru some heavy stuff! There is no way to make these last 3 chapters light and easy. **It is the WRATH OF GOD being poured out on man! And as we have said before judgment DOES NOT produce repentance, GOD CHANGES HEARTS THRU HIS GRACE AND HIS MERCY!!!**

**So it is important for people to know, while we are still living in the dispensation of Grace, that this judgment is coming. God is calling out for repentance thru the message of the Gospel (2 Corinthians 6:2 reads “In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you. Behold, now is the accepted time; behold now it is the day of salvation.”)**

Sister Shelbia reviewed our prayer list and asked for any additions.

**PRAYER LIST:**

Judy, Elsie, Vada & Jim, Bessie, Sharon, Kay & Jerry, Steve & Carolyn, Sarah and Steve, Ruth Ann, Della, Jane, Caroline, Rachael, Summer Rose, Christians world wide, Pastors - that they will be firm in God's Word and truth- forget about social interactions and focus on God's truth, Leaders all over the world, Josh Hawley.

Our Father God,

You know every need. We're thankful you're in charge and ask you to work in your perfect will.

In Jesus name, Amen