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Revelation 16

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Revelation 16.

Topics.

- Seven angels are told to pour out seven bowls of wrath on earth.
 - The first angel poured painful sores on those with the mark of the beast.
 - The second angel made the sea, like the blood of a corpse.
 - The third angel turned the rivers and the springs of water to blood.
 - The fourth angels allowed the sun, to scorch people with fire.
 - The fifth angel turned the kingdom of the beast into darkness.
 - The sixth angel dried up the river Euphrates for the kings of the east.
 - Spirits like frogs and the dragon, the beast and false prophet.
 - I am coming like a thief! blessed is the one that is not found naked.
 - They assembled at the place, that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.
 - The seventh angel, a loud voice, "it is done!" and a great earthquake.
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A personal note: though I have always loved reading and studying the Scriptures and have now walked with Christ and in God's grace for around fifty years the following studies should not be taken to be dogmatic, inflexible or the final word on the matter since I am fully aware that my mind is limited by mortality and that greater understanding of God's revelation is continually becoming clearer before our eyes as we move closer to the time of Christ's glorious return in glory.

1

The previous chapter: began with John seeing seven angels with the seven final golden bowls full of the wrath of God coming out of the sanctuary of the temple in heaven and those who had conquered the beast and its image standing on a sea of glass mingled with fire singing the song of Moses, and the song of the Lamb. The chapter ended with the sanctuary being filled with smoke from the glory of God that prevented anyone from entering the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

REVELATION 16:1

Seven Angels are told to Pour out Seven Bowls of Wrath on Earth.

- **Revelation 16:1:** Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls (vials in KJV) of the wrath of God."

Vials: come from the Greek word (*phiale*) and generally refers to a plain shallow cup like a soup bowl; a goblet or a glass with a wide mouth, which were normally used for sweet smelling incense. Revelation fifteen verse seven speaks of golden vials filled with the wrath of God about to be poured out upon the the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22) and his antichristian empire, his forces and the nations aligned to him. Being golden bowls means they

would be bowls or cups made of brass or gold, which is very fitting since brass symbolises judgment while gold would symbolise the fact that they are divine judgments from the hand of God. The allusion seems to be to a drinking a bowl or goblet filled with a mixture of different toxic poisons given to persons to drink which was one of the common methods of destroying a high-ranking enemy in ancient times. Prior to the seven vials of wrath the seven trumpets are poured out over a long duration of time and affect the earth, the sea, the rivers and the sun, after these the final seven vial/bowls are poured out with sudden force and are much more terrible than the trumpets and utterly-destroy the antichristian beast empire and his followers. Some of these judgments are set forth in detail in the seventeenth through to the twentieth chapter.

A loud voice is heard from the temple: (v1) in verse seventeen a voice coming out of the temple, from the throne, is heard saying, "It is done" and in (Rev. 15:17) we read, that it was one of the four living creatures that gave the seven angels the seven-golden bowls full of God's wrath, which means that this voice from the temple and the throne is most likely the voice of one of the four living creatures. It can also be taken to be in answer to the following prayer of the souls of those who had been slain, that cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (Rev. 6:9-10).

The earth: in this context does necessarily refer to the entire surface of the earth, but to:

- The man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22), his headquarters and government and the territories of the beast empire and all the kingdoms and nations in league with him.
- The whole apostate church of the prostitute woman full of abominations and the two-horned beast, the false prophet and all their territories.
- The Great city Babylon and upon those who have the mark of the ten-horned beast empire and worship his image, (Rev. 16:2), and upon the whole Roman Papal region.

THE FIRST ANGEL

REVELATION 16:2

An Angel Poured Painful Sores on those with the Mark of the Beast.

- **Revelation 16:2:** So the first angel went and poured out his bowl (vial in KJV) on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

The beast: in focus here is the ten-horned beast, we know this because in chapter thirteen we are told that the beast with two horns like a lamb that spoke like a dragon deceives those who dwell on earth, into making an image for the ten-horned beast that was wounded and worship it. (Rev. 13:11-15). However, John in chapter seventeen is given a vision that shows there is a woman seated on this ten-horned beast that is drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus and is arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and on her forehead the name written mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." (Rev. 17:1-6).

This means that the beast in focus here in this chapter most likely embraces both the ten-horned beast and the great, mother of prostitutes of earth's abominations. The first angel brings painful sores upon those who worshipped this beast, the allusion here is to the boils that fell upon the people of Egypt:

- They (Aaron and Moses) took soot from the kiln and stood before Pharaoh, and Moses threw it in the air, and it became boils breaking out in sores on man and beast. (Exodus 9:10).
- The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, and with tumors and scabs and itch, of which you cannot be healed. (Deut. 28:27).

We are not told what type of harmful and painful sores these are (i.e., mental, physical or a sickness or disease or some kind, or some type of viral plague), it is enough to know that whatever form they take they will be harmful and painful and are directed against those who support the antichristian civil, secular and worldly power and the ecclesiastical, religious and spiritual authority of the false prophet. The beast in focus consists of two entities, firstly the great deceptive Christian power in the world the Roman Papal Church, the Vatican, its Cardinals, bishops' priests and clergy and the various ecclesiastical religious organization aligned with them. Secondly, the antichristian ten-horned European nations and the nations aligned to them. Though they are two beasts (ecclesiastical and secular) they are so closely linked that together they form one mighty beast power existing in two distinct forms (religious and secular) closely united, and mutually sustaining each other. (Rev. 17:1-6). For information concerning the power and influence of the Papal Church, the Pope and the Vatican click or tap [Topics in Revelation](#) and select the title: Papal Church, the Pope and the Vatican.

THE SECOND ANGEL

REVELATION 16:3

The Second Angel Made the Sea, Like the Blood of a Corpse.

- **Revelation 16:3:** The second angel poured out his bowl (vial in KJV) into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea.

3

The allusion here is to the first Egyptian plague:

- Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the Nile, and all the water in the Nile turned into blood. (Exod. 7:20).

The Nile, was the lifeblood, strength and source of Egypt's wealth, but once the Egyptian plague was poured upon the great river it turned to blood, and every living creature in it died, and it became useless to the entire Egyptian empire.

The sea can represent peace and harmony or troubles and commotions: when the world is ruled by God and by heavenly minds and by moral and civil right, the sea symbolises a healthy force amongst the multitudes of the earth's populations and the voice of harmony and the free movement of peoples, like a calm ocean providing healthy life to its surrounding nations. But, when it is ruled by antichristian earthly minds and by selfishness, worldliness, pride and greed, the sea symbolise the tumultuous, troubles, passions, commotions and the corrupt and deadly impulses of the masses of the earth's populations.

This may mean the sea or some region of it will literally be turned to blood and kill every living thing in it, but it is more likely a symbol of something that the sea turning to blood would fittingly symbolize such as massive widespread bloodshed caused by modern-day weapons of mass destruction falling on the entire beast empire, especially since the ten-horned beast is pictured as rising-up out of the sea. (Rev. 13:1).

THE THIRD ANGEL

The Third Angel Turned the Rivers and the Springs to Blood.

- **Revelation 16:4-7:** The third angel poured out his bowl (vial in KJV) into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood. ⁵And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say, "Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, (which art, and was, and shalt be in KJV), for you brought these judgments. ⁶For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!" ⁷And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!"

The waters of the antichristian world were turned to blood, likewise the waters of Egypt were also turned to blood:

- The LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, their canals, and their ponds, and all their pools of water, so that they may become blood, and there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, even in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.' " (Exod. 7:19).

This plague resulted in the waters being so polluted all the Egyptians had to dug along the Nile to find fresh water to drink. (Exod. 7:24). The idea here is much like the previous vial/bowl, in that it does not necessarily mean that the waters will literally turn to blood, but is a hyperbole to expresses the vast amount of death and bloodshed that will result from this wrath plague perhaps by weapons of mass destruction or lack of fresh water or some type of plague.

Who is and who was (which art, and was, and shalt be in KJV): (v5) meaning who is eternal, who existed in all past time, who is existing now and who will exist ever onward.

True and just are your judgments:(v5) the angel acknowledges God's righteousness, because of the righteous law which these judgments manifested. To the natural mind these judgments seem terrible, the bloody streams indicate great slaughter of vast numbers, yet the angel sees in all these judgments only the act of a righteous God bringing just retribution on the guilty and rightly so for the true power of all creation and life has been rejected and His word corrupted. Like the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priest, Pharisees and Scribes) this global beast power and its worshippers have corrupted God's word and are hostile toward the Son of God and those who are considered from heavens view to be the salt of the earth. It, is because they reject the giver of life and are hostile toward those who do honour Him, and they do all they can to destroy Christ's Kingdom that they reap these seven last plagues of wrath.

THE FOURTH ANGEL

REVELATION 16:8-9

The Fourth Angel's Allowed the Sun, to Scorch People with Fire.

- **Revelation 16:8-9:** The fourth angel poured out his bowl (vial in KJV) on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. ⁹They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.

Following are two ideas as to what this means:

1. It literally refers to the sun scorching people and causing major famine which would follow such heat and be common to all.
2. It refers to some widespread major calamity that is aptly symbolized by people being scorched by the intense heat of the sun such as our modern-day weapons of war.

They cursed the name of God: (v9) in past generations when disasters struck the earth, the general consciousness of the heads of countries and their population was to pray that those affected would be OK, it would never be thought to curse God, whereas now the consciousness of mankind has taken over the years such a dramatic shift, that rather than pray for help they openly curse God, this shows how far the world has fallen away from God, from His Son and from the Gospel.

THE FIFTH ANGEL

REVELATION 16:10-11

The Fifth Angel Turned the Kingdom of the Beast into Darkness.

- **Revelation 16:10-11:** The fifth angel poured out his bowl (vials in KJV) on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish ¹¹and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

For the identity of the beast see the title: "The beast," following verse two. The darkness here is again an allusion to the darkness that covered all the land of Egypt.

- Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness to be felt." (Exod. 10:21).

The darkness here could refer to the following four things:

1. Supernatural darkness like the darkness that came on the day Christ was crucified (Matt. 27:35) or perhaps because of some major power blackout caused by wars or natural disaster.
2. A lack of wisdom, righteousness, justice and knowledge especially of the LORD and His ways and His laws. (Jer. 13:16) or gloom, confusion and uncertainty. (Isaiah 59:9-10).
3. War that drives people from their land (Ezek. 34:12) and leaves everything a desolate wilderness. (Joel 2:1-2).
4. Mighty armies that God uses to bring His judgment upon nations that have become grossly corrupt and wicked. (Joel 2:10-11).

Complete darkness can be taken to symbolise the ultimate state of all sin running rampant throughout the region where the throne of the antichristian master-power of worldliness is seated and the regions his widespread ungodliness reaches, which is the unifying power of the empire of the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22) the final global world ruler whose entire kingdom is influenced by that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2). It is upon this empire that this vial/bowl of wrath falls upon.

Gnawed their tongues in anguish (for pain in KJV): (v10) those in extreme mental and bodily, anguish bite their lips and tongues, because of their great calamities. Gnawing the tongue is an expression of extreme torment, agony and distress. Those in Christ should rest in their salvation and in the confidence, that:

- God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ, 1 (Thessalonians 5:9).

The apostle Paul tells us when the last trumpet sounds:

- We will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. (1 Corinthians 15:51-53).

The book of Revelation tells us that the last trumpet (i.e., the seventh trumpet) sounds prior to the seven vial/bowls of wrath being poured out, which means that at the sound of the seventh trumpet two events occur, firstly the faithful are raised, and secondly, the seven vial/bowls of wrath begin.

- The seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever. (Rev. 11:15).
- Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished. (Rev. 15:1).
- I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God." (Rev. 16:1).

The chronological order of events begins with seven seals, the seventh seal opens the seven trumpets and the seventh trumpet opens the seven vial/bowls of wrath, which brings about the destruction of all that is hostile toward God, toward Christ and his people, and prepares the way for Christ to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice joy and peace on earth. In the same way that the plagues of Egypt came very quick one after another and brought about the destruction of Pharaoh and the Egyptian powers (the world power of that day). Likewise, these vial/bowls of wrath will come in like manner one after another and bring about the ruin of the antichristian beast empire. This can be supported, by the fact that the seven angels were given their orders at the same time; and go forth immediately, one after another.

THE SIXTH ANGEL AND THE RIVER EUPHRATES

REVELATION 16:12

6

The Sixth Angel Dried Up the Euphrates for the Kings of the East.

- **Revelation 16:12:** The sixth angel poured out his bowl (vial under KJV) on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east.

Various statistics concerning the great river Euphrates:

- It is one of the most important rivers in central and south west Asia and one of the boundaries of the land of Israel (Deuteronomy 11:24). (Joshua 1:4).
- It is on the east of Palestine and ran through Mesopotamia and Babylonia by the walls of the great city Babylon.
- It passes through deep canyons and has twenty-two dams built on it, for these reasons its depth can vary from 10metres to 45metres in some areas, while its width can vary from almost 2miles to only 200metres in different places.
- It formed the great separating barrier between Israel and the hostile northern and eastern kingdoms and as such symbolises the separation between the Kingdom of Christ and the kingdom of men and acted as the great barrier and hindrance to war, between the two.
- On the Eastern side of the Euphrates is ancient Assyria, which is today broken up into the following countries: Baghdad (ancient Babylon), north western Iran (ancient Persia), northern Iraq, north-eastern Syria, south eastern Turkey and Russia, China, India, and Mohammedan.

Euphrates river and dams: the ancient civilisations of Assyria had until recent years an abundance of water, but, not anymore. NASA studies recently indicated that the Tigris and Euphrates rivers are drying up, in vast areas in Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran. At this present time (2018), there is no agreement among the countries on sharing the water

resources of the two rivers so each neighbouring country whether Turkey, Iran or Syria, controls the water flow into Iraq according to their own interests, needs and circumstances without adhering to any quota or consideration. Due to the lack of any legal agreement, Turkey, to secure water for its own country has built twenty-two dams and are intending to build many more on the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, which has reduced and will continue to reduce the flow of water from Turkey into Syria and Iraq which is leaving Iraq with less water day by day. According to published reports, Iran is the world's third leading country in dam construction, with 200 contracting companies, that have over the past three decades built 600 dams (on average 20 a year), to irrigate farms and provide electricity. The focus here is upon the waters of the great river Euphrates drying up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. Kings of the East include, kings of Baghdad (ancient Babylon), Iran (ancient Persia), Iraq, Syria, Turkey Russia and China to invade the Holy Land and the city of Jerusalem. There are the three common scenarios' concerning what this sixth vial/bowl of wrath may apply to, the first involves an army of two hundred million, the second, the Red sea and the third, removing a natural protective barrier, since they all have some valid points, we will look at each one separately.

1. **Two hundred million:** in chapter nine we read of the sixth trumpet sounding and releasing four angels bound at the great river Euphrates who had been prepared to kill a third of mankind and told, that the number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand. (i.e., two hundred million) (Revelation 9:13-15). Since it is reasoned by some that China is the only nation capable of equipping such a vast army of 200 million various commentators identify this battle, with the sixth vial/bowl of wrath drying up the Euphrates river to prepare the way for the kings from the east, supposing the kings of the East to be China and various other Eastern nations with them. The difficulty with this view, is that Revelation chapter nine says nothing of an army from the East; but of a warfare that kills a third of mankind and the battle of Revelation nine occurs after the sixth trumpet judgment, which is sometime, prior to this battle here in Revelation sixteen involving the kings of the East and the sixth vial/bowl judgment of wrath. However, it is very likely that as we approach the last days various nations including China, will try their hand at taking hold of the Middle East, the Holy Land, Jerusalem and ultimately war against Christ.

2. **The Red Sea:** there may be an allusion here to the dividing of the waters of the Red Sea, in which the formidable enemies of Israel (the world power of that time) were destroyed and the children of Israel delivered.

- Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.
²²And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. (Exod. 14:21-22).

Here the Red Sea was dried up, the mighty and vast armies of Egypt marched through it to destroy Israel, but instead they themselves were destroyed. Likewise, the Euphrates River is dried up, allowing a confederacy of Kings from the East to gather together with a confederacy of kings from the West to march toward Israel to destroy them, but instead they themselves are destroyed at Armageddon, while Israel is saved by the return of their Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **Removing a natural protective barrier:** God set the Euphrates river as a boundary for Israel because it helped to thwart Israel's enemies in the East, and served as a natural, protective boundary for God's people if they remained faithful to Him. This symbolically means the expression, "the drying up of the river Euphrates," carries the idea of removing a natural protective barrier, between Israel and its enemies on the East, but today, we have fighter jets and planes for transporting hundreds of soldiers and weapons of war, and bridges and dams, which means rivers are not such a barrier as they were in earlier years.

Whether the Euphrates is literally dried up, or it simply means that due to our modern age of fighter jets and planes that transport hundreds of soldiers, and ships, dams and bridges, the idea is that the Euphrates is no longer a barrier to the kings of the East forming a confederacy of forces to invade Israel. This scenario is in harmony with the following verses that speak of the kings of the whole world, being assembled for battle on the great day of God the Almighty at, Armageddon. (v13-16). It is impossible to know for sure if the confederacy of kings from the East who one-day march toward Israel will include China; however, since there has been a dramatic rise in China's power and influence, its military strength and global economic dominance it is not hard to imagine that the might of China will be involved in some way.

Conclusion: until we are closer to the actual events, and the detail of these kings of the East become very clear, those in Christ can rest in the confidence that God is setting the stage and has it all under control, as the following Psalm shows:

- The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his anointed, saying, ³"Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." ⁴He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. ⁵Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, ⁶"As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." (Psalm 2:2-6)

THE SIXTH ANGEL AND SPIRITS LIKE FROGS

REVELATION 16:13

Spirits like Frogs and the Dragon, the Beast and False Prophet.

- **Revelation 16:13:** And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. ¹⁴For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.

The beast in focus here embraces both the ten-horned beast and the great, mother of prostitutes of earth's abominations. For further information concerning this beast see the title: "The beast," following verse two. (above).

The mouth of the dragon: (v13) the dragon refers to the great dragon that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2). It is that spirit in the heart of man that outwardly manifests itself as a hostile enemy of the church, and aggressively opposes Christ and his Kingdom. The idea here is, that at the time referred to, there will be some type of very clear manifestation of the power of Satan amongst the secular nations, which will manifest itself in extreme pride, and hostile bold arrogant speeches against Israel and by extension against Christ and all who align themselves to him. It is interesting to notice that from the sixth angel comes the dragon the beast and the false prophet which are all embraced in the number 666. Here the trinity of Satan is manifest in the flesh.

1. **The mouth of the dragon:** refers to the spirit and influence of the great dragon that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2)
2. **The mouth of the beast:** refers to the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22), the head of the ten-horned secular beast power. (Rev. 17:1-6).
3. **The mouth of the false prophet:** refers to the two-horned beast like a lamb that spoke like a dragon (Rev. 13:11).

The great dragon that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2) understands the end is near, so in one final display of power, gathers the highest powers on earth together to destroy the people of God. The man of sin and lawlessness (2 (1 John 2:22) the head of the ten-horned beast power will gather his forces and align with the kings of the East.

Frogs: from Jewish perspective frogs were unclean creatures unfit for human consumption. When they are used negatively in Scripture it does not refer to cute little green frogs, but to frogs that are not only odious and distasteful to look at but are also a pest to fields and crops. They are the perfect symbol of sin because they have their origin in mud and lives in swampy marshes. Day and night these muddy brown frogs' make a loud continuous croaking sound and for this reason are fitting emblems of those who continually speak empty words of vanity and make vain promises.

The symbolism of the three frogs: (v13) is of arrogant and prideful men and heretics and false teachers of great power and authority that, blatantly speak subtle and yet deceitful messages that are contrary to God and the Gospel with such skilful oratory that they deceive the innocent and gullible, the naïve and unsuspecting of the antichristian world to go forth with the kings of the whole earth to the battle of the great day of God Almighty and make a last united effort to destroy the King of kings and Lord of lords seated on the white horse (Revelation 19:11). The frogs signify evil men of great authority power and influence that are full of vain speeches who at the end of the age are influenced by the dragon and speak on behalf of the ten-horned beast and the great prostitute woman full of abominations. They are likened to odiousness frogs, because from heavens view men that oppose God, Christ, the truth and the Gospel are offensive, obnoxious, repulsive, loathsome and so vile that creatures that live in the mud and swampy marshlands perfectly represent them.

Frogs are mentions three times in Scripture: and all three refer to the same event which was the plague of frogs that covered the land of Egypt, which means there may be an allusion to these frogs, that not only covered all the land of Egypt and filled the Nile river, but also filled the houses, bedrooms and beds of the people of Egypt and their servants, and their ovens, kneading bowls, rivers, canals and pools. (Exod. 8:2-6). When these frogs were gathered together, they were placed in heaps and the entire land of Egypt stank and Pharaoh still hardened his heart against God and would not listen to Moses and Aaron. (Exod. 8:1-15). The allusion to this plague would be that the men likened to the frogs are from heavens view odiousness offensive, obnoxious, repulsive, loathsome and vile and the words that go out of their mouth will pollute the entire world, and even after each vial/bowl of wrath falls the inhabitants of earth they continue to harden their hearts toward God as the Pharaoh of Egypt did. It should be mentioned here that the expression, "three unclean spirits like frogs came out of the mouth of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet," does not so much refer to the person, but to what they are speaking. It is the messages that they are speaking that is likened to the three unclean frogs because their messages are false and full of empty and vain promises and openly hostile toward God, Christ, the truth and the Gospel. Each of the three have one focus and combine their whole evil force to destroy all who stand for Christ and the Gospel. They are said to be spirits of devils working pretended miracles meaning they use all their evil arts and wicked policy to excite the anti-Christion world to unite more strongly against all who proclaim the Gospel and faithfully work to expand the Kingdom of Christ on earth. Sin reaches its climax, in the manifestation of the dragons last attempt to destroy Christ's Kingdom, and empower the man of sin and the false prophet with the ability to perform false and deceptive signs and wonders, that will deceive and entice the most powerful rulers of the world, to assemble-together for battle on the great day of God the Almighty at Armageddon. It is certain they will proclaim to the inhabitants of the world, that to bring peace and harmony to the global world those who deny the authority of the man of

sin, reject the doctrines of the false prophet and refuse to worship the image of the ten-horned beast must be exterminated. The messages that go out of these three frogs (symbolising those who speak on behalf of the the dragon, the serpent, the devil and Satan) (Rev. 20:2) use all their evil arts and wicked policy and their seductive enticing messages to arouse the anti-Christion world and most likely the Mahometan powers, to unite more strongly against all who proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ.

The general theme of the chapter: is of the two hostile (Western and Eastern) beast kingdoms being slowly brought together and into open antagonism against the Kingdom of Christ. Every obstruction and hindrance is removed, even the Euphrates is dried up, so that the hostile kings of the East could advance like the armies of Pharaoh entered the dried-up Red Sea with hostile speed and such great hatred toward the people of God that they intended to utterly-destroy them. The full force of evil symbolised by three evil spirits moves upon the antichristian nations to bring this battle to pass. Overview of the characters:

The dragon: represents hostile hate toward God and all who stands for Him and His Son.

The ten-horned beast: represents the hostile secular world-power against Christ, his people and his Kingdom.

The false prophet: represents biblically false teaching.

The man of lawlessness: (man of sin in KJV) (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22) is the prideful egotistical antichristian head of the secular ten horned beast empire, who by skilful oratory and speeches promising to bring peace to earth, save the planet and bring prosperity to mankind deceives the nations into gathering against Israel and Christians to destroy them.

The prince of the power of the air: is the spirit of earthliness and worldliness that dwells in those who deny God (Ephes. 2:2). It works in those who love pleasure; those who are motivated by selfish ambition; those who are driven by greed, money and materialism; those whose god is their belly; those who have no shame and those who have their minds set on earthly things rather than heavenly things. (Philip. 3:19).

The dragon: appeals to the spirit of egotism and of proud, self-sufficient independence, which culminates in an utter hatred of the Creator. These combined make manifest the wisdom that the apostle James describes as earthly, sensual unspiritual and devilish. (James 3:15). These spirits gather all earthly powers to the war (not a battle since Christ destroys them by the breath of his mouth) (2 Thess. 2:8) of the great day of God the Almighty. The day which will test the power of combined evil, the day which, beginning in rash pride, will end in bitter defeat, to this the evil spirits lure their followers. The messages that go out of these three frogs (symbolising those who speak on behalf of the the dragon, the serpent, the devil and Satan) (Rev. 20:2) are not only obeyed, but revered as oracles that will save mankind, these anti-Christian messages are readily accepted for the following two reasons:

1. They are spoken by men or women of great authority, renown and power who are highly skilled in the art of public oratory and eloquent and persuasives speechmaking.
2. The book of Psalms tells us, "Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes." (Psalm 36:1). This means that messages that appeal to the flesh, pride and ego will appeal to the heart of mankind, because sin, wrongdoing and disobedience toward God abide in the human heart.

I am Coming Like a Thief! Blessed are those Not Found Naked.

- **Revelation 16:15:** Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!

The words, "Behold I come as a thief," are the words of Christ, they are inserted here as an interruption to the main account of the story, before it is completely told, to acquaint the reader with his sudden return and to warn them that during these great times of difficulty he will return to gather them to himself. The following verses show that this is an often-repeated warning, Jesus said:

- Know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." (Luke 12:39-40).
- They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all (Luke 17:27).

Paul and Peter wrote:

- The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night (1 Thess. 5:2) (2 Pet.3:10).

Putting these together we see that the day of the Lord will come unexpectedly, suddenly and in the night. The words "In the night" shows that the householders were sleeping when the thief came which carries the idea the day of the Lord will come when the world is in spiritual darkness as it was in the days of Noah, when there was little faith in the earth. It is certain it will be a time when the foolish virgins are slumbering and sleeping and when the claims of scoffers and mockers that the Lord's return is a clever myth and fable invented by the mind of men is greatly multiplying amongst the populations of the world. Here the disciples of Jesus are to be like those waiting for their master to return. Though they do not know when he will return, they are always ready for his return, meaning that they are endeavouring to live a lifestyle that honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of Jesus. The following comforting words Paul wrote to the Thessalonian brothers and sisters show that the day of the Lord should not overtake those in Christ as a thief in the night.

- You yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape, but you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness (1 Thessalonians 5:2-5).

When a thief comes in the night, those being robbed are in darkness and totally unaware that the thief is coming. Once they are alerted that the thief has robbed them, they are struck with sudden fear and shock when they find that all the things they treasured and valued have been taken therefore the words, "The Lord will come like a thief in the night" implies the following two things:

1. The Lord will come unexpectedly, his return will take people by surprise and come upon them suddenly and with fear and shock.
2. Those who are prepared will not be taken by surprise. In the same way that those who know a thief is coming prepare their house against theft, by installing locks and alarms etc., those who prepare themselves for the Lord's return hold fast their faith and endeavour to live a lifestyle that brings honour to God and a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the night: (v2) could literally mean in the night or that the people of the world are spiritually blind (i.e., in spiritual darkness). Just as Noah and his family and Lot and his family were delivered from certain destruction these verses show us that the faithful who are watching and waiting with heartfelt excitement for the Lord's return will not be taken by surprise when that glorious, breathtaking and majestic day comes.

Christ's treasures in this world: there is a majestic and glorious wonder contained in the words, "The day of the Lord will come like a thief (v10) that is sometimes overlooked. Consider for a moment, what does a thief come to steal? But the most valuable treasure hidden in the house he has entered to plunder. If Christ is coming as a thief, what are the treasures of the world that he is coming to plunder, but all those who by faith and God's grace belong to his eternal Kingdom (God's most valued treasure in this world).

NOTICE: it does not say when there is peace, but when people are saying, "Peace and security" (v3) which could imply that the Middle East or the entire world has suffered so many wars or acts of terrorism that the collective voice of the world's population is crying for "Peace and security." It is at this period when people are calling for, "Peace and security" that Paul says, "There will be sudden destruction." Paul's use of the words, "Labour pains" (v3) here, this is brilliant, because it immediately takes the mind of the ardent Bible student to the following words that Paul wrote to the Roman brothers and sisters in Christ,

- We know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies, for the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God (Rom. 8:19-24).

The labour pains (1 Thess. 5:3) of a pregnant woman not only continue to increase, but they become more rapid until they are almost unbearable, the poor Mum to be is at this point screaming in pain to be delivered of her child, but; and this is the glory, once she is holding that new born child in her arms all the pain is overtaken by overwhelming love and joy. Just as a pregnant woman's labour pains increase in strength and become more rapid until the child is born so too will the labour pains of the earth. There will be an increase in natural disasters and the world's suffering as this world approaches the Day of the Lord. When this destruction comes there will be no escape the world's governments, man's heroes, weapons of war and the world banks will collapse. Billions of dollars will not be able to save the world from this coming destruction.

A world changing event: this is not about the end of the world, but the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and a total change of the world's governments, authorities, leaders and trade, economies and banking systems as we know them today. The Bible personifies the earth as a pregnant woman who is struggling to give birth to the sons and daughters of God. This breathtaking and awe-inspiring world changing event will take place when Jesus returns in spectacular and awesome power and glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy city Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-5) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will

eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God. The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information concerning the Kingdom of God, click or tap [Kingdom of God](#) and select the title: Future Kingdom of God in the New Testament. For further information concerning the Resurrection click or tap [Resurrection](#) and select the title: The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

The heavens will be burned and works on earth exposed: (2 Peter 3:10) amongst religious teachers there have always been various understandings of what Peter had in mind when he wrote the words, "The heavens will pass away, the heavenly bodies will be burned up and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed" (v10) The following are the two most common teachings

1. The sky, stars, sun, moon, the earth and everything upon it will be totally-destroyed.
2. The word heavens symbolise those who hold high religious positions of authority and who have great influence over a multitude of people, while the earth symbolises the secular world; based on this idea the heavens passing away would refer to the ruin of the city of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Jewish Temple. The heavenly bodies being burned up would refer to the total removal of the Levitical priesthood and the Jewish religious system with all its ceremonial rites, religious customs and traditions and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed would refer not only to the corruptions of the people within the city of Jerusalem but also of those in the land of Judah and the surrounding nations.

It is certainly true that these events did occur. In A.D. 70. the armies of Rome brought ruin to city of Jerusalem, destruction to the temple and to the land of Judea as Moses at the foot of Mount Sinai had warned the people of Israel if they abandoned the covenant they entered-into with the LORD and turned to other gods and gross wickedness, their land would be burned with brimstone and salt, nothing sown would grow and no plant would sprout, as it would be like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah which the LORD overthrew in His wrath (Deut. 29:23-29). Though history records Israel's rebellion and Rome's destruction of Jerusalem, the temple and the land of Judah, the ultimate sense of Peter's words are focused on the return of the Lord Jesus Christ and the effect that glorious and majestic event will have on the global world, so for this reason God's judgment on Israel and Jerusalem should be taken as a prelude of similar events that will affect the entire world and not simply Israel and its surrounding nations. With this global view in mind the following would apply:

- The heavens passing away would not only refer to the ruin of all false religious temples (i.e., the Vatican City, Moslem Mosques and other similar religious buildings) but also carry the idea that all that is destructive in nature (i.e., storms, floods, earthquakes and such like things) would also pass away.
- The heavenly bodies being burned up would not only refer to the total removal of the world's false religious teachers and leaders, but also to all man-made ceremonial rites, religious customs and traditions being made obsolete.
- The earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed, means that everything corrupt in the world would be exposed and destroyed such as deceitful governments, corrupt leaders of nations, the oppression of the banking system, the stock exchange and global trading. The drug trade, human trafficking, the rich taking advantage of the poor for their own selfish gain and for excessive profit, the wickedness of war and all that is corrupt in our justice system and self-serving religious leaders will be clearly exposed.

There will be a suitable climate for all life when Christ returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth. It is certain there will be no earthquakes, storms, tornadoes; tidal waves or extremes in hot and cold temperatures which means that the climate as we know it must change and for this to happen the heavenly bodies will need to change also.

NOTE: to discuss the Lord's return in an atmosphere of spiritual adventure and peace can be enormously exciting and is spiritually healthy, but to dogmatically and aggressively argue over the exact detail and every aspect of Christ's return result in spiritual sickness because it causes strife, contention and worse still division.

Though it is exciting to have a reasonable understanding (howbeit limited) of Christ's return and it does add strength to our faith, it is not important to know or understand every detail of the Lord's return to be saved to eternal life. It is interesting to notice that after the resurrection of Christ most New Testament Bible writers simply say that we will be gathered together to be with Christ in eternal glory. Every faithful brother and sister in Christ who looks forward to the Lord's return with excitement can be confident Christ will receive them with joy.

The following comforting words of Jesus should always be kept in mind:

- He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out (John 10:3).
- He goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice (John 10:4).
- The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:11).
- I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me (John 10:14).
- My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me (John 10:27).

No brother or sister will miss the Lord's trumpet call simply because they lack full understanding of their Saviour's return. Clearly it will be a very dramatic and awe-inspiring event and as the events draw nearer it will become very clear to those who know the Lord Jesus Christ. It should be comforting to all faithful Christians that though Noah and Lot knew destruction was coming neither of them knew the exact moment when it would come. Providing we are always ready, meaning always remaining in faith trusting in God's grace and endeavour to live faithfully before the Lord Jesus Christ with an excitement of his return we can be confident we will be gathered together (whether we are dead or alive) to be with the Lord in everlasting glory.

What sort of lives should the beloved live: seeing that it is an undoubted truth that the heavens and the earth are going to be dramatically changed when the Lord returns Peter tells the beloved in the Lord that they should endeavour to live, speak and behave in a manner that honours God and brings a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith (v11) with a sense that nothing is permanent on the earth and an awareness that our citizenship is not of this world.

- Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. (Revelation. 3:3).

These verses that speak of the Lord coming as a thief in the night seem to contradict the following verse that says, "every eye will see him."

- Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. (Rev. 1:7).

However, these can easily be harmonised in the following way, the verses that speak about Christ coming as a thief in the night refer to those who are not watching and not ready for him to return, they have no conscious thought of his return, but live their life as though his return is years away. In contrast to this those who are ready live their life as though Christ could return at any time and continually look forward to when he does return. They have an excitement and joy in their heart when they think of being gathered together to be with him.

The expression, "every eye will see him," embraces both those who are watching and ready and those who are not watching and not ready. Christ return will be so spectacular that everyone will see it, those who are not ready will be stunned with shock and awe, while those who are ready will be filled with excitement and joy.

Blessed is the one who stays awake: (v15) the meaning here is, that those who watch for these events, and who are conscious of Christ's return and live their life according to his words and according to the Gospel of grace will be filled with joy and in a happier state of mind than those who are not watching, not ready and live their life as they please.

Keeps his garments on, that he may not go about naked: (v15) and be seen exposed, meaning, they remain clothed with Christ's robe of righteousness, the garment of salvation, lest they are found walking in their own self-righteousness and their own works and their vain self-effort is exposed and they are found lacking. The allusion here seems to be to one who, regardless of danger, or of the approach of an enemy, lays aside their garments and lies down to sleep. Then the thief comes and takes away their garments and leaves them naked. The essential idea, is of vigilance. We are to remain in faith and live in a manner that honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of Jesus so that we are always ready for the coming of the Son of man.

THE SIXTH ANGEL AND ARMAGEDDON

REVELATION 16:16

They Assembled at the Place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

- **Revelation 16:16:** And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

Armageddon or Har-Megiddon: also called Megiddon or Megiddo, it is of Hebrew origin (*har*) and Hebrew (*M^egiddown*) and refers to a mountain or range of hills in Palestine and sometimes used to refer to a hill country. When used figuratively it signifies elevation and promotion, and symbolically carries the idea of, gathering as a crowd (as if by pressing into) and to assemble and gather as troops. This is the only verse that use the word Armageddon.

Armageddon location: according to recent searches the plain of Megiddo is either an extension or the whole plain of Esdraelon, toward Mount Carmel; where the city of Megiddo was situated and the waters of Megiddo are mentioned (Judges 5:19). It is a high table land of Megiddo, surrounded by hills. Battles were fought in a valley adjacent to or at the bottom of these mountains, which was the great battle-field of the Holy Land. Here kings fought and fell, the fortunes of dynasties and kingdoms have been decided and for this reason Megiddo became a symbol of grievous mourning. The place called in Armageddon does not necessarily mean that this final war will be a literal war fought upon a literal battlefield called Armageddon. Megiddo, is a place frequently mentioned in the Old Testament and well known in ancient times for various memorable battles. Following are the most notable ones:

- Deborah & Barak vs. Sisera (Judges 5).
- Saul vs. the Philistines (1 Sam 31).
- Solomon vs. Pharaoh Shishak (2 Chr. 12:3-4).
- Josiah vs. Pharaoh Necho (2 Kings 23:29).
- Four separate battles between Saladin and the Crusaders in the 12th century.
- Egyptian Mamlouks vs. Mongols in 14th century.
- Napoleon Bonaparte vs. Ottomans in 1799.
- General George Allenby vs. Ottoman Turks in 1918.

Zechariah (and many others) use the word Megiddo for this same final battle as the following verse shows:

- On that day (the day all the nations come against Jerusalem) (v9) the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. (Zech. 12:11).

This verse is in the context of all the antichristian nations of the world coming against Jerusalem and the Lord protecting and destroying the armies of these nations. After the great defeat of these antichristian nations God pours out upon Israel a spirit of grace and the Jews recognize the One who they pierced and there is great mourning throughout the land of Israel and the inhabitants of Jerusalem cry for mercy. (Zech. 12:10-14). John describes this encounter as a sharp sword coming out of the mouth of Jesus that kills the wicked. (Rev. 19:15-21), and Paul wrote that when the lawless one is revealed, the Lord Jesus will kill him with the breath of his mouth and bring him to nothing by the appearance of his coming. (2 Thess. 2:8). This means that it will not be a military showdown. Remember when the soldiers came to take Jesus one of those who were with him drew his sword and cut off the ear of the high priests' servant, after which Jesus said to him:

- Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword.
⁵³Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? (Matt. 26:50-53).

Jesus is not coming this time as a Lamb to be slaughtered, but as the King of kings and Lord of lords to conquer, but the word of his mouth, meaning he will speak the appropriate word and the armies gathered against him will be destroyed, since he has all the power of his heavenly Father available to him.

The Seventh Angel, a Loud Voice, "It is done!" A Great Earthquake.

- **Revelation 16:17-18:** The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" ¹⁸And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake.

It is said to be poured out into the air, which carries the idea that this vial/bowl plague will not only affect the earth, but will also greatly affect the climate, evidenced by the lightning and the thunderstorms, which no doubt will bring destructive hurricanes and gale force desolating winds and on earth an earthquake such as the world has never seen, which will result in political upheaval and chaos and the fall of nations, spoken of in chapter seventeen and eighteen. This seventh vial differs from the other six in that they only affected some part or branch of the antichristian state, whereas this vial will affect all that remains of the antichristian ten-horned beast empire; the Roman Papal religion and the false prophet, and the Mahometan powers and their armies, gathered and united together at Armageddon. The pouring out of this last vial is not only the final execution of God's wrath but will also bring about the binding of the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and, (Rev. 20:2) and the return of Christ in glory.

A loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne: (v17), this voice came directly from the throne, which means it is not the voice of any of the twenty-four elders, or the four living creatures, or of the angels found around the throne; but from God the Father that sits upon it. In chapter four John was caught up in the Spirit and saw:

- A throne in heaven, with one seated on the throne. (Rev. 4:1-2)

And all the host of heaven never ceased praising the one seated on the throne saying:

- Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come! ⁹And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever. (Rev. 4:8-9).
- Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. (Rev. 4:11).

Then in chapter five John sees the Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, taking the scroll from the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne. (Rev. 5:6-7), which clearly shows that it is the invisible, immortal, Almighty Holy God of all creation and the source of all life that is seated on the throne and who is speaking.

It is done: (v17) it has come to pass, here is God's voice declaring the final-completion of His judgments and the victory of His church, as His Sons' voice on the cross declared, when his work of redemption was completed, "It is finished." The results of the outpouring of this seventh vial are described in the following verses; but before they are seen, the voice from the throne proclaims, the near approach of the happy end, saying, "It is done," meaning the last of the last plagues has been sent forth. The close of these scenes of sin and suffering is now about to be fulfilled and the dominion of the beast and the antichristian time is about to come to an end forever, the destruction is so certain, that it can be spoken of as now actually being accomplished. All the glorious things spoken of concerning Christ's church and his people will be accomplished. The global body of Christ, the church, will be completed, the Jews will be converted, and the fulness of the Gentiles will be brought in, and the new Jerusalem prepared as a Bride for her Husband, and the New World will begin.

The seventh vial/bowl is the third and final woe: (v17) the first accomplishment of the seventh vial (also the third and final woe), will be the complete destruction of all Christ's and his church's enemies, at the place called Armageddon (v16).

This final vial/bowl and woe will utterly-destroy:

- Those that have destroyed the earth.
- The anti-Christian ten-horned beast and the prostitute woman.
- The false prophet, the Papists, and the Mahometans and all others hostile toward God, the Lord Jesus Christ and his people.

When all these enemies of Christ are destroyed nothing will lie in the way of for Christ's literal reign on earth to begin.

Lightning, thunder and a great earthquake: (v18) great earthquakes, signify great changes, upheavals and transformations. This vial brings down thunder, lightning, hail, and storms and a terrible earthquake, such as this earth has never experienced before. These destroy all the antichristian nations and the final downfall of Babylon will be complete (spoken of in chapter eighteen) and the church becomes triumphant on earth and the millennium reign of Christ begins.

THE SEVENTH ANGEL AND THE FALL OF BABYLON

REVELATION 16:19-21

The Great City Babylon, the Fall of Nations and Great Hailstones.

- **Revelation 16:19-21:** The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. ²⁰And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. ²¹And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.

The cup of the wine of God's fury and wrath: (v19) this expression, carries the idea that the sins and evil of the following two empires have reached such an extreme peak that the justice and judgment and wrath of God cannot be withheld any longer.

1. The false doctrines, that the Papal Church, the Vatican its bishops, cardinals, clergy and priests and all false ecclesiastical religious organisations have corrupted the world with.
2. The aggressive hostility toward Christ and his people by the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22) and his antichristian empire.

These global powers have deceived and influenced such a large portion of the world that they can be tolerated no longer. The following verses show that the wrath of God is often signified in the Old Testament by a wine cup and a cup of fury.

- In the hand of the LORD there is a cup mixed with foaming wine that he pours out on all the wicked of the earth. (Psalm 75:8).
- The LORD, said to me: "Take from my hand this cup of the wine of wrath, and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it." (Jer. 25:15)

The fall of Babylon: is described at large in chapter eighteen. In chapter seventeen John is given a vision of a great prostitute woman full of abominations seated on a ten-horned beast that is drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus and arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and on her forehead the name written mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." (Rev. 17:1-6). Symbolizing the Papal Roman Church and all other false religious and ecclesiastical organizations in league with her. The ten-horned beast that this woman is pictured sitting on is the secular global world empire headed

by the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) (2 Thess. 2:1-4) (an antichrist) (1 John 2:22). The ten kings receive authority as kings for one hour (i.e., a limited and short period of time), together with the beast (the man of sin and lawlessness) the ten are all of one mind and hand over their power and authority (i.e., military might) to the man of sin. God passes a sentence of condemnation on the great prostitute woman full of abominations and all who she symbolises. He brings her judgment about by putting it in the heart of the man of sin and lawlessness and the hearts of the ten horned beast nations to be of one mind to destroy her, according to the will of God (Rev. 17:11-18). After this great destruction of the great prostitute woman the man of sin and lawlessness pridefully and foolishly leads the ten horned beast nations against Christ and he destroys them with the breadth of his mouth as the following verse shows:

- The lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. (2 Thess. 2:8)

In Paul's letter to the Thessalonians he wrote: before the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him comes, there will be a rebellion in which the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) the son of destruction, is revealed, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god and object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. The Lord Jesus Christ will kill him and the armies with him, with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing his entire empire by the appearance of his coming. (2 Thess. 2:3-8). When this world changing event takes place the faithful will be gathered to be with the Lord while the seven vial/bowls of wrath rapidly fall. After all hostile opposition to Christ's Kingdom have been removed the Lord and those gathered to him will establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth. At this present time, it could be said that God is in the process of making Christ's enemies a footstool for his feet.

- You, LORD, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, ¹²like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end." ¹³And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? (Hebrews 1:1-14).

The great city was split into three parts: (v19) the city of Babylon; or the mighty power that was represented by it was fractured into three parts, either one part was smitten and the other parts fractured later, or different forms of destruction came on each of the three parts. In Revelation chapter eighteen it is stated that the following plagues will fall upon Babylon:

1. **Luxurious living will end:** death and mourning will replace luxurious living (v7-8), there will no longer be musicians, craftsman or the preaching of the Gospel (v22), which all carry the idea that there will no longer be any happiness or joy found in Babylon.
2. **There will be a widespread food shortage:** great famine will be widespread (v8) and the city will be burned up with fire, most likely meaning it will suffer wars. (v8).
3. **The global financial money system will collapse:** all the wealth of Babylon will be laid waste, no longer will great industries, and merchants gain vast wealth, riches and profits from their buying and selling and their businesses, trade and commerce. (v11-17, 23), and the global trade of merchants carried out on the sea by cargo ships between countries will be laid waste. (v17-19).

It is possible the statement, "The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nation's fell" (v19), carries the idea, the nations in the world will collapse in three stages or by three primary things, being, wars famine and a global financial collapse. Ultimately, the Great city of Babylon and all other nations symbolized by it will be thrown down with

violence and found no more. (v21). Fulfilling Daniels interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon dream of the great image of the metal man whose appearance was, exceeding bright and frightening. Its head was of gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. At the end of this vision Daniel sees:

- A stone that was cut out by no human hand, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ³⁵Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. (Daniel 2:31-35).

The exceeding bright and frightening metal image symbolize the global world system of government, oppressive financial money system of credit, trade and commerce (symbolized in this chapter by Babylon). The stone symbolizes the return of Christ in glory destroying all that is contrary to God's will, laws, ways and contrary to the law of love and establishing God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth. The general meaning is that this strong worldly power symbolised by the Great Babylon, will be broken into pieces, so that the whole is reduced to a ruinous state, by a succession of different judgments as if one part was brought to ruin at a time. At this present time God is patiently permitting the ungodly and anti-Christian world to carry on its ungodly purposes and practices as if He did not see their wicked ways. It could be rightly said that we are living in the long day of grace and the long day of death, but now in this final vial/bowl of wrath the time has come when all the evil that has been done is judged and acted upon as though God has suddenly remembered, and the long-delayed judgment is now to fall completely upon the global world, symbolised here by the Great City of Babylon. After which the sons and daughters of God will be manifest on earth and the church (the Kingdom of Christ) will emerge victoriously triumphant on earth.

Every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found: (v20) this language magnifies the total and utter ruin and fall of the antichristian global world system, perhaps brought about by global warming.

Great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each: (v21) this is no doubt an allusion to the great hail stones that fell upon the Egyptian enemies (the world power of that time).

- Moses stretched out his staff toward heaven, and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to the earth, and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt. (Exodus 9:23).

Rather than Pharaoh being brought to repentance and listening to the word of God spoken by Moses, he hardened his heart against the LORD. Likewise, those of the anti-Christian world, symbolise by Babylon rather than repent not only harden their hearts, but curse God, it is by their own obstinance, stubbornness and blasphemy that they bring their judgment upon themselves. These hail stones are about a hundred pounds (45 kilograms), denote the greatness and severity of these judgments. They fall on all the cities and nations in alliance with the central power of the Great Babylon, when a capital capitol city falls all other cities dependent upon it also fall. Likewise, when the head of a beast is destroyed, its body dies. The effects of these judgments are mentioned in the book of Luke. When Jesus disciples asked him when will they see the Son of Man coming, he said:

- There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:25-28).

The seven vials show us that sin gradually dissolves the integrity of the religious and secular world which brings about the gradual decline of godly principles which manifest in moral decline, ungodly lifestyles pride and selfish ambition in governments and rulers and eventually manifests itself in the antichristian beast system, until the stench of sin pollutes the throne of God and retribution is poured out on the seat and head of the world-power and the centre of its authority. Throughout these seven vial/bowls of wrath God is all the time preparing the way for the triumph and victory of Christ's Kingdom and his people. When the final vial/bowl is poured out, God's final dealing with the nations will begin and the sentence of destruction will go forth against the ten-horned beast and the man of sin and lawlessness, while they are vainly cheering themselves with the hope of a complete victory over Christ. The whole series of these vial/bowl judgments illustrate the truth that there is a stage in personal life, and in the life of a nation, and the life of the world in which troubles, sorrows and grief lose their corrective and restorative power, because the character of the individuals' life, and of a nation and the world has become so set in hardness that the only course God can take is to administer judgment. It can be rightly said that by their hardness of heart against their Creator they have brought judgment upon themselves. The book of Revelation gives us a very general sketch of things to come to pass down to the end of this age. Many of its prophecies are difficult to interpret and full of obscure symbols that are mysterious and difficult to work out and for this reason Christians differ, as to their views of the times and seasons of events, but on this one point all are agreed, Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, will suddenly come again to judge the world and gather the faithful to himself. Greater detail of this judgment is given in the following two chapters.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.