Revelation 16:12-16

The Sixth Plague: Armageddon

1. **The Sixth Scene**
   1. Three visions of Armageddon
      1. Rev. 9:13-21; 16:12-16; 20:7-10
      2. The great river Euphrates (v12)
         1. This is the same river mention in Rev. 9:14.
         2. At the time of John’s ministry the Parthians to the east were the constant menace to the eastern frontier of the Roman Empire.
            1. There was a rumor at that time that Nero had not died but escaped to the east and that he would return with a Parthian army and take the throne.
      3. “from the rising sun”/ “east” (v12)
         1. This is geographically to the east, in the region of the Euphrates.
            1. This is the direction in which the great enemy of Babylon came to destroy Judah as well as take some of her people into captivity.

In the Book of Revelation Babylon represents all the enemies of God’s people.

* + - 1. “Euphrates/from the rising sun” are symbols that suggest another great enemy will hurl itself at the church in one last battle to try to destroy her.
  1. The unholy trinity: verse 13
     1. Dragon; beast; false prophet
        1. This is the same unholy trinity found in chapters 12 and 13. This unholy trinity is symbolized by the three sixes: 666.
           1. The dragon is the great read dragon (12:3), Satan himself.
           2. The beast is the beast of the sea (13:1).
           3. The false prophet is the beast of the earth.

Compare 13:18 with 19:20

The beast of the earth = the false prophet = the harlot.

* + - 1. The dragon is the mastermind of this unholy trinity.
         1. The false prophet is the false spiritual power.

All false religions: Islam, Judaism, apostate Christianity, etc.

* + - 1. “Three unclean spirits like frogs”
         1. Leviticus 11:9-11 states all creatures living in water which do not have fins and scales were to be considered unclean and unsuitable for food.
         2. One of the plagues of the Exodus story included frogs (Ex. 8:1-15).

Frogs covered the land in Egypt.

* + - * 1. This “host” under demonic influence will cover the entire earth.
  1. Gathering for battle: verse 14
     1. Kings/world leaders are deceived by false messiahs performing false signs.
        1. Matthew 24:6, 23, 24.
     2. The “great day of God the Almighty”
        1. This day is foretold about in the Old Testament:
           1. Ezekiel 38,39. Joel 2:11; Zephaniah 1:14.
           2. Previous judgment days:

Assyria’s conquest of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

The fall of Jerusalem to Babylon.

The destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 AD.

* 1. A word from Jesus: verse 15
     1. His return will be like a thief in the night.
        1. Matthew 24:36-44; 1 Thessalonians 5:2.
        2. This is meant to serve as a warning, but also as a promise of hope and encouragement.
           1. This promise encourages one to remain faithful in the midst of fearful days of the last battle at the End.
  2. Armageddon: verse 16
     1. Mountain of Megiddo
        1. The city of Megiddo is known but not a mountain.
           1. Barak and Deborah in Judges 5:19
           2. Josiah and his army were defeated by Pharoah Neco at Megiddo in 2 Kings 23:29,30
        2. Because Megiddo was near the north side of Mt. Carmel and its range, Armageddon could by a reference to that north side of the range.
        3. Megiddo is “one of history’s famous battlefield, having witnessed major conflicts all the way from one fought by Tuthmosis III in 1468 B.C. to that of Lord Allenby of Megiddo in 1917.” (Robert Mounce; Revelation Commentary).
        4. Armageddon is not a designation of a particular geographical place, but a terrifying metaphor of a war that will cover the expanse of the entire earth.
           1. The enemy’s intent is the destruction of the people of God, the church of Jesus Christ.
           2. The enemy will not prevail, however.

Next Sunday: Revelation 16:17-21