

THE REVELATION

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

Chapter 16:8 - 19

d) Bowl Four (16:8-9)

Rev 16:8 The fourth angel poured out his bowl upon the sun, and it was given to it to scorch men with fire. ^{9a} Men were scorched with fierce heat;

If there is no water to hydrate the body, what could be worse? Heat! Scorching heat with no water, that could be worse! With the *fourth bowl of wrath*, the sun will begin to bear down on the *Revived Roman Empire*. We would think that any decent, normal person would rethink a relationship with the Creator – but not the people of this empire.

(1) Blasphemous Men (16:9b)

Rev 16:9b and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues,

Rather than waking up to the reason for the Creator's wrath, the people of the vile Revived Roman Empire will curse the Creator. He has the power to take the plagues away, to add to them, and to make them worse. The people of this empire will hate the LORD even more.

(2) Rebellious Men (16:9c)

Rev 16:9c and they did not repent so as to give Him glory.

What possible comfort will these people of the *Revived Roman Empire* have for blaspheming God? How much wrath can they endure before they cry out to the LORD? At what point will they give God glory? They will be rebellious; they will not give “Him glory.” The people will not turn from worshiping Satan and the image of the beast; therefore, it will be time for the LORD of glory to pour the bowl of His wrath on the place of power in the empire.

e) Bowl Five (16:10-11)

Rev 16:10a Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened;

The *beast* will be the ten united countries of the *Revived Roman Empire*. It will have a human king who has a throne upon which he sits. But in this verse, the king's throne is not the intent; rather, with the pouring of the *fifth bowl of wrath*, the whole kingdom of the *beast* “became darkened.” Lights out! Day and night! In *bowl four*, the sun scorched every person in the empire, lights on; in *bowl five*, the sun's light does not shine at all, lights out. This contrast will greatly affect the people. What will they do?

(1) Pain (16:10b)

Rev 16:10b and they gnawed their tongues because of pain,

How will continuous darkness cause “pain” to the point that the people will “gnaw their tongues?” It does not! The word “pain” is a mistranslation. The Greek word is *ponos*, and it should be translated

as *concern*. This portion of the verse should read, “and they gnawed their tongues because of the concern.” They will be concerned about the darkness. The Greek word comes from another word that means *toil* or *work*. The people of the *Beast’s Revived Roman Empire* would gnaw their tongues (bite their tongues) because the darkness would be hampering their daily work to provide for their families, which was of great concern to them. With only blood to drink, as well as everyone being burned by the scorching sun and now living in darkness, it seems that any normal population would realize the evils of their ways, but not these people who have the “mark.”

(2) Blasphemy (16:11a)

Rev 16:11a *and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores;*

Rather than giving glory to the Creator, the God of heaven, the people of this empire will speak blasphemous words about Him as they continue to have concerns about their work and nurse their oozing blisters on their scorched skin. Every person in the empire, without exception, will suffer.

(3) Deeds (16:11b)

Rev 16:11b *and they did not repent of their deeds.*

Will the people of the empire change their ways? No! They will keep doing what they have done since they took the “mark.” Because the people with the “mark” will not change their ways, the LORD will just help them along with the pouring of the *sixth bowl of His wrath*.

f) Bowl Six (16:12-16)

(1) River Dried for Kings of East (16:12)

Rev 16:12a *The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east.*

The *sixth bowl of wrath* will be different from the first five. The five brought harm and judgment to the *great red dragon*, the first beast, which is the *Revived Roman Empire* and the second beast, the *religion of this empire*. This *sixth bowl of wrath* will be poured to help the *great red dragon* and the two *beasts* in their efforts to rebel against the LORD. The bowl will be poured on the “*great river, the Euphrates*.”

The Euphrates River has been a great barrier to the eastward and westward movement of armies, tribes, and clans since the flood of Noah’s day. It is 1,800 miles long and, in some places, as wide as 3,600 feet and 30 feet deep. On any trip across that area, a decision had to be made early on whether the journey would go to the north or the south of the river. In this case, the people of the kings of the nations of the east will need an easy trail to join with the *beasts* in the valley of Megiddo. Any kingdom north of the Euphrates River would need to journey all the way to the beginning of the river, north of Haran, before turning south for another 600-mile journey to Megiddo. Today, a road exists from Bagdad to Irbid, Jordan, that could shorten the trip as the crow flies by about 1000 miles, but that highway crosses right through the sands of the desert, almost all the way with very few places to stop.

It is often said that these are the armies of the Far East, meaning China and the other Asian nations, but the Scripture does not confirm that point. However, people will be coming from the

Near East to join in the great battle. It does not indicate that they will be just military personnel; rather, it seems that they will be people from all walks of life who hate God. With the drying up of the Euphrates River, the road to Megiddo will become much more manageable. The *Fertile Crescent* that follows on either side of the river provides numerous routes from the Northwestern three-quarters up the river that can lead directly into the Valley of Megiddo. Once the river is dry, many more routes will open leading to Megiddo, and all that will need to happen will be a call for everyone who hates God to come and join the rebellious party in the Valley of Megiddo.

(2) The Three Unclean Spirits Appear (16:13)

Rev 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;

With the Euphrates River dry, John sees “three unclean spirits like frogs” coming out of the mouths of the *dragon*, *beast*, and the *false prophet*. Before we address the *frogs*, we must turn our attention to a new person, the *false prophet*. Previously, we have clumped together the evil trinity as the *great red dragon*, the *first beast*, and the *second beast*. We have also drawn the conclusion that the *great red dragon* was *Satan*; the *first beast* was the *Revived Roman Empire*, and the *second beast* was a religion that preached *peace but spoke like the dragon*. In bowl five, there was the mention of a throne of the beast, which indicates that there must be a human supreme ruler or king of the empire, and that is confirmed in other *End Times* passages. Here, John introduces us to the idea of another human, *the false prophet*. He will be the human minister of the religion of the *Revived Roman Empire*. That religion will not be Christian. The only religion that preaches peace and speaks like a dragon is Islam. The *false prophet* of Islam will be a *cleric or Iman*. He will be the spokesman of the religion of the *second beast* that will exist in the presence of the *first beast, which is the Revived Roman Empire*.

In the vision, John sees the *great red dragon*, *the first beast*, and the prophet of the *second beast* with something that looks like *frogs* coming out of their mouths. John must have heard understandable voices from the *frogs*’ mouths, planning and scheming rebellious and dreadful acts. We are almost 2000 years away from John and his vision. He had no idea what these *frogs* were, but we do. We call them phones.

(3) The Three Unclean Spirits Call Kings of the Worlds (16:14-15)

Rev 16:14 for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. ¹⁵ *("Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.")*

If we had lived in John’s day and saw the use of phones, we would have thought it was a great “sign.” A better word for “sign” today is *miracle*. John saw the demonic trio speaking with all the “kings of the whole world.” Here, John used the word “world” purposefully instead of “earth.” John meant every king of every country, of every square inch of the “world.” He will not care if they have the mark or not!

The purpose of the gathering is clear in this verse. The people were being gathered “*together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty*.” The *great red dragon*, *the beast*, and the *false prophet* will call the kings of the world to enlist the help of humanity to wage “war” against “God, the Almighty” on the

“great day.” Here, we are clear that John understood that the rebellious trinity would be calling the world's people to war against God on His important day, but we are not sure that the diabolical triad would know what they were doing. They will be gathering people to war against God when He arrives; we are not certain that they will know the disastrous outcome. *Satan* will know the outcome; he has seen the Bible. We do not know the extent of what the *Revived Roman Empire – the first beast* and *Islam – the second beast* with its *false prophet* will know about its final outcome. Surely, the rebellious people of the world joining with their kings in Megiddo will not have a clue as to their fate when the *LORD* arrives.

Verse 14 is the most revealing. For whatever reason, most Bible teachers have continuously left the impression on students that the *Revived Roman Empire* will control the entire world; it will not. It will require everyone within its borders to take the “mark” and anyone who wants to do business with them, but the requirement of the “mark” will not be worldwide. It will be localized in the ten countries that make up the *Revived Roman Empire*. Therefore, the “mark” is a primary threat only to the people of *Britain, Spain, France, Italy, North Africa, Greece, Macedonia, Turkey, Syria and Egypt*. It is a secondary (or elective) threat to all the other nations of the world who wish to do business with these ten countries; it will not be a requirement for those who choose not to do business with them. But more than that, verse 14 proves that the *Revived Roman Empire* will not be worldwide. I have said several times throughout this study that only the empires that reigned hard over Israel would culminate in the formation of this last empire. The heads of the *great red dragon* and the *first beast* prove that the *LORD* was looking at the empires of *Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome* along with this *Revived Roman Empire*. China, India, Japan, Korea, United States, Canada, Ireland, Scotland, Chili, Argentina, Mexico, South Africa, and the rest of the world will not be part of this empire. They will all still be autonomous in some form or configuration. In the future, nations not part of these ten countries will still be merging and dividing and doing business in the normal course of history as they have done through the ages. The *great red dragon, the beast, and the false prophet* will simply require every person under their control to join them in the valley to fight the *LORD*. But to gather more forces to help with the battle, the trio will need to recruit people from other nations in the rest of the world. The *frogs*, as John described them, will be used to call the kings of all the other nations of the world to invite them to bring their people to join in the war against God in the valley – it will be only an invitation, it does not mean that all will accept the invitation!

How many people will the valley hold? How many people can squeeze into its boundary lines?

As we discovered in Lesson 2 of this series, the valley covers about 138 square miles of land. Experts tell us that 26 million people can stand side-by-side and front-to-back in one square mile. That means that the valley of Armageddon can squeeze in like sardines, approximately 3,588,000,000 people or ten people within every square meter in the valley; that many people compose almost half the population of the entire world today in 2024. However, if the *Revived Roman Empire* were formed in 2024, its total population would be about 561,000,000 people. In perspective, the United States has about 354,739,852 people as of September 1, 2024. In other words, the valley of Megiddo will most likely hold three billion more people than the *great red dragon* has been controlling in the *Revived Roman Empire*, if it was formed today.