

1 **A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

LESSON 49

2 **FLOOR PLAN GRAPHIC**

3 **REVIEW**

- We are in the Book of Revelation the 16th chapter
- The time we are studying is showing the seven vials as seen from the earth, in the heaven view they were seen as trumpets
- We are studying the gathering together of the armies for the battle of Armageddon
- We found in chapter 16 verses 12-14 that Satan sent out three evil spirits like frogs to gather the armies of the world to go against Jerusalem
- Last week we studied the three groups of countries being gathered together and who they are
- This week we will study this fourth group and who they are

4 **REVIEW cont.**

- The Scriptures in Ezekiel showed us the details of who they are
- We found this fourth group to be independent of the control of Antichrist
- We saw in Ezekiel that this fourth group of countries even sent a note of protest when the invasion of Israel is threatened

Revelation 16:12

12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

5 **THE KINGS OF THE EAST**

Ezekiel 38:13

13 Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away

silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

- Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 are the same time period that we are studying here in Revelation, the gathering of the armies for the battle of Armageddon
- Ezekiel saw these events before John saw them and recorded them in the Book of Revelation
- The second part of verse 13 above is the note of protest asking why should Israel be invaded

6 **THE KINGS OF THE EAST cont.**

- Sheba and Dedan are named first however they are not important countries today
- Their exact locations are not known but their general locations would be in Arabia and Africa
- They will become powerful nations, and they will be leaders in a group which will include the merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof
- Tarshish is Gibraltar which has never been a nation
- It is the closest that Ezekiel and John could come to showing the area of interest
- It is amazing how these prophets of old were able to pull from the mind of God and put descriptions into words in a way we could understand

7 **THE KINGS OF THE EAST cont.**

- The descriptions of what we are studying are truly a miracle as it shows the events and timings so clearly
- Ezekiel is not referring to Gibraltar itself as it has never been a nation but it was the only territory he knew of that was in this area
- He is referring to a country or an empire in the Atlantic that is also a merchant country
- The young lions would be offshoots of that empire or country
- Today there is only one such country – Britain

- The young lions would be America, Canada, Australia and other members or former members of the Commonwealth

8 **THE EUPHRATES DRIED UP**

- A river is not a barrier to modern armies; it might slow them down but not stop them
- We need to remember that there is no rain for 3-1/2 years so chances are the river has physically dried up during this time
- Much more is meant by this statement in the Scripture in verse 12
- Recall when we were studying the 9th chapter of Revelation that it was revealed that there were two hundred million evil spirits imprisoned there that have by now been set loose

9 **SOUNDING OF THE SIXTH ANGEL**

Revelation 9:15-16, 14

15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

16 And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

14 saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

- This is also part of chapter 16 as we are seeing the river Euphrates in play
- We studied who these evil spirits are and where they came from earlier in the 9th chapter

10 **THE EUPHRATES DRIED UP cont.**

- The river represents more than the city of Babylon; it takes in all the nation (Iraq)
- The fall of this nation would render it incapable of preventing foreign armies from passing through
- Babylon is in the country of Iraq in our times
- When Ezekiel lists the countries involved in the battle of Armageddon he conspicuously omits two important ones: Babylon

(Iraq) and Egypt

- Egypt is becoming a great nation again like others in Arabia
- However the Scriptures also tell us that Egypt is to be totally destroyed so that there will be neither man nor beast in the land

11 **TIME ELEMENT REFRESHER**

- Keeping the time element in mind as we study these Scriptures is very important
- In our study we have gone through the Rapture which is the catching away of the church
- We have also gone through the first 3-1/2 year period of the Great Tribulation; God's grace mixed with judgement
- We have gone through the first 3-1/2 year period of judgement and the first 6 plagues of the seventh seal
- We are now into the last 3-1/2 year period of judgement
- By this time it is judgement only; there is no more mercy, no one is saved except those sealed on Mt. Zion

12 **THE DESOLATION OF EGYPT**

- When the nations gather at Armageddon there will be no Egypt there

Ezekiel 29:9-11

9 And the land of Egypt shall be desolate and waste; and they shall know that I am the Lord. Because he hath said, The river is mine, and I have made it,

10 behold, therefore I am against thee, and against thy rivers, and I will make the land of Egypt utterly waste and desolate, from the tower of Syene even unto the border of Ethiopia.

11 No foot of man shall pass through it, nor foot of beast shall pass through it, neither shall it be inhabited forty years.

13 **THE EUPHRATES DRIED UP**

- Forty years is a long time to be totally desolate
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EGYPT-SUDAN-ETHIOPIA MAP

14 **THE EUPHRATES DRIED UP cont.**

- The destruction of Babylon (Iraq) will take place just before Armageddon, so there will be no Babylon when the armies gather
- This is expressed in Revelation by the same terms that Ezekiel uses – the drying up of the river
- How much "meat" there is in the one little verse 12 of chapter 16!
- To summarize this event in the 9th and 16th chapters: when the 6th messenger poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates, then those demons are let loose and the water thereof was dried up that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared
- The 200 million evil spirits of chapter 9 are shown as frog-like spirits here in the 16th chapter

15 **ARMAGEDDON**

Revelation 16:12-15

12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

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

14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

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

16 **ARMAGEDDON cont.**

Revelation 16:16-19

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

17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne,

saying, It is done.

18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

17 **ARMAGEDDON cont.**

Revelation 16:20-21

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

21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

- We are passing from the 6th plague to the 7th plague
- The destruction of Babylon (Iraq) is before the battle of Armageddon actually takes place and the drying up of the river shows us this as Ezekiel did likewise

18 **BEHOLD I COME AS A THIEF**

- "Behold I come as a thief" in verse 15 is the only direct connection with the parallel section of chapter 9, the heaven viewpoint
- This parallel connection is an important one
- The action here takes place between the 6th and 7th vials which corresponds to the 6th and 7th trumpets
- In the parallel section in chapter 9 the length of time for the 6th trumpet/vial is given – 3-1/2 years
- The battle of Armageddon has been depicted as the greatest war there ever has been, an exceedingly terrible war
- If you are one of God's people you will not be there and will not have the worries over it

19 **THE GATHERING OF ARMIES**

- Anyone who takes the mark of the beast will be part of this terrible

calamity, the worst that has happened in this world

- The gathering of the armies takes place between the 6th and 7th vials which happens over a period of time which is 3-1/2 years
- Why is Satan/Antichrist going against Israel? What is the purpose of the battle of Armageddon?
- It is to prevent Jesus Christ and his saints from taking possession of the earth
- Satan knows and believes prophecy which is why he gathers the whole world as seen in verse 14
- In spite of all of Satan's efforts it is still not enough to prevent or impede Jesus' return

20 **THE GATHERING OF ARMIES cont.**

- Satan is gathering all he possibly can at this time: all his demons and their armies, all his natural armies
- He has sent out all of these demons showing miracles to gather as many countries to follow him as he can
- Verse 14 tells us these "frogs" are the spirits of devils
- They are gathering armies from the whole world
- The key to understanding what this battle is all about is "...the battle of that great day of God Almighty."
- Satan does not have the power, no matter what he has, to overcome Jesus Christ
- We have the power of the Holy Ghost within us that gives us the power to overcome Satan and our old natures

21 **THE GATHERING OF ARMIES cont.**

- It is up to us to use this power that God gave us
- The Holy Spirit is the most powerful weapon we could ever possess, the most powerful protection we could ever have
- We have to learn how to use this power and to trust it
- Back to Revelation; Satan knows it is time and he has summoned all these demons to gather the armies
- The most powerful demons are going to be loosed after the Rapture

- Satan sends out his demons with all the miracles he can do to bring in all the world for this battle of Armageddon

22 **THE GATHERING OF ARMIES cont.**

- Satan is just a tool of God being used for God's purpose
- It is God who has set up this battle: the time, the place, who's going to be there, and Satan is still not doing what he thinks he's doing
- God controls all of this just as He controls our lives, if we allow Him
- The Word of God tells Satan when to gather his armies
- Why does Satan need such a large force and why so quickly?
- Satan may provide the nations an incentive for coming and that is to take a great spoil (remember after the plagues the world will be in bad shape)

23 **THE GATHERING OF ARMIES cont.**

- Satan's real reason, in his mind, is to prevent the coming back of Jesus Christ and His saints
- This is told in detail when we get to chapter 19
- At this time, from the earth's viewpoint, we see only the mobilization of the armies
- The circumstances that throw Satan's kingdom into a frenzy are recorded in the 10th chapter, between the 6th and 7th trumpets
- The main event there, in the 10th chapter, is that, Jesus, with the authority of the open book, takes formal legal possession of the earth and the sea
- Satan knows this and he also knows that it is at this time, in chapter 16, that Jesus is coming to take actual physical possession of the earth and the sea

24 **THE GATHERING OF ARMIES cont.**

- Remember by this time, the gathering of the armies for the battle, the earth has seen a lot of supernatural happenings, events, and spirits
- Satan is portraying the coming of Jesus and His saints as an invasion from outer space

- This will galvanize the rulers of the world against a perceived common enemy
- The nations of the world will forget their differences and unite against an outside force
- Satan has already convinced most of the world that he is the most powerful being there is
- All those following Satan are doing so knowing who he is, with all his supernatural powers, because they want to as he gives them what they want

25 **THE GATHERING OF ARMIES cont.**

- You may ask, how could they fight Jesus Christ?
- Well, how could they crucify Him when He came the first time?
- He showed them miracles, and powers and the forces that He had
- These men that crucified Him, the religious leaders, they knew who they were crucifying
- They did not want Him here because He was exposing them for who they were
- What's happening at Armageddon is the same idea
- Mankind will still fight against Jesus because of Satan
- Satan always imitates God, this is part of his working miracles

26 **THE GATHERING OF ARMIES cont.**

- The Egyptian magicians duplicated the plagues imposed by Moses
- Satan will produce a resurrection to offset the Rapture
- When God sends down the Two Witnesses working miracles, Satan sends out devils or devilish spirits also working miracles
- This contest goes on until Satan suddenly succeeds in killing the Two Witnesses who have been standing him off
- Just as soon as this happens– and it will be hailed as a great victory for Satan, showing his invincible power – the armies will gather at great speed
- They will come like a whirlwind, Isaiah says

27 **THE GATHERING OF ARMIES cont.**

Isaiah 5:26-29

26 And he will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly:

27 none shall be weary nor stumble among them; none shall slumber nor sleep; neither shall the girdle of their loins be loosed, nor the latchet of their shoes be broken:

28 whose arrows are sharp, and all their bows bent, their horses' hoofs shall be counted like flint, and their wheels like a whirlwind:

29 their roaring shall be like a lion, they shall roar like young lions; yea, they shall roar, and lay hold of the prey, and shall carry it away safe, and none shall deliver it.

28 **THE GATHERING OF ARMIES cont.**

Isaiah 5:30

30 And in that day they shall roar against them like the roaring of the sea: and if one look unto the land, behold darkness and sorrow; and the light is darkened in the heavens thereof.

- Isaiah sees their speed as a whirlwind as the armies hasten to gather for this expected invasion
- Armageddon is also translated as "they gathered them together", that is, the evil spirits who were sent out gathered the armies together
- Armageddon is correctly read in Hebrew as Har-Magedon meaning mountain of Megiddo

29 **THE GATHERING OF ARMIES cont.**

- It probably refers to Mt. Carmel, at the foot of which extends the plain of Megiddo, an ancient gathering place for armies
- It is very important to study the the parallel portion of these events, between the 6th and 7th trumpet/vial/plague, to get the full picture of what is happening here

- This is a whole 3-1/2 year period which is why so much takes place
- Everything is pointing toward the culmination of our redemption

30  **PHOTO OF PLAIN OF MEGIDDO**