

Behold, I Come Quickly...

A Study of Revelation

PART 4

Revelation 17:1 - 22:21

BABYLON, JUDGMENT, AND PARADISE REGAINED

LESSON 4

Revelation 19:1 - 19:21

THE TWO SUPPERS {A Marriage and a Massacre}

Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. (Revelation 22:7)

REV 19:1-21

The Wedding Supper

REV 19:1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

3 And again they said, Alleluia And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.

4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Because of Babylon's destruction of Revelation 17 and 18 ("after these things"), there is much rejoicing in heaven because of the judgment of the harlot. "Much people" is the same Greek words used for the great multitude of Revelation 7:9. It may refer to all people in heaven, or the martyred dead as in Revelation 7:9. Finally the time has come when men will no longer be allowed to rebel against God. The scene now is in heaven just before Christ's Second Coming.¹

The smoke of those that partook of the evil deeds of the Babylonian system will rise forever, thus avenging the slaughter of the martyred saints.²

The Church (Elders) and the cherubim fall down and worship God separate from the "much people" of verse 1, thus giving weight to the idea that the "much people" refer to the martyred dead believers. In the Elder's first appearance in Revelation chapter 4 they worshipped the Lamb as Creator and Redeemer. Here He is worshipped as the Ruler of the Universe, and for His righteous judgment.³

The voice from the throne is probably that of an angel saying "praise our God." The phrase "ye that fear Him" refers to all God's servants in heaven. All those in heaven are praising God such that the sound is deafening.⁴

¹ Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, pp. 215, 216. Walvoord, THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, p. 268.

² Walvoord, THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, p. 269.

³ Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, p. 216. Ironside, REVELATION, p. 203. Walvoord, THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, p. 269.

⁴ Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, pp. 216, 217. Walvoord, THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, p. 269.

REV 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage [supper] of the Lamb is come, and his wife [bride] hath made herself ready.

8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

According to John Walvoord, "The 'marriage of the Lamb' is more properly the marriage supper of the Lamb, the final aspect of the marriage relationship between Christ and His church."⁵

The marriage of the Lamb follows the Jewish wedding customs. **First:** The bride price was paid by the Father – the blood of His Son was the price paid (Eph 5:25). **Second:** The preparation or betrothal required some time, a year or longer. The Son would prepare a place for His bride (John 14:1-3). When all was ready He would return to collect her (1Th 4:13-18; the pre-Tribulation Rapture). **Third:** The marriage ceremony then takes place. This ceremony takes place at the home of the Groom, attended only by close family members and also by two unrelated witnesses who sign the marriage agreement ("My two witnesses" Rev 11:3). Under a canopy the benediction of betrothal is recited over a cup of wine partaken of by both the bride and Groom. A ring is placed on the bride's finger and the wedding contract (Ketubah) is read. Next, Seven Blessings are recited by a rabbi over a second cup of wine. Remember that we have seen in earlier lessons that the book of Revelation contains seven blessings. Then the Groom breaks a glass in memory of the destruction of the Temple. Finally, the bride and Groom slip away to consummate the marriage. **Fourth:** The marriage feast is attended by the friends of the bride and Groom. This feast lasts a week, after which the bride and Groom settle in their new home.⁶

It is clear from Ephesians 5:30-32 that the bride of the Lamb is the Church, and the context of Revelation 19:7 indicates the "bride of Christ" to be the "wife" mentioned. Both the Byzantine and Alexandrian Greek texts have "wife" (Greek: *gune* (*goo-nay*)). If the "bride" is already the "wife," indicating Christ has already come prior to this for his "bride," then what is indicated here is not the marriage, but the wedding feast.⁷

EPH 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

The bride cannot be Israel, as some suppose, since Israel is called the "wife" of God (Jehovah). A bride does not become a wife until after a marriage has taken place.⁸ The bride is now making herself ready by being washed with the water of God's word (sanctification process). Complete sanctification will take place at the Rapture when we will all be changed. After this the church will be presented to Christ, without spot, wrinkle, or blemish, at the Judgment Seat of Christ.⁹

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

The fine linens are the garments that each of us makes here on earth, made clean and white by being washed in the Blood of the Lamb.¹⁰ Fine linens are the righteousness of the saints. We are **justified** as an act of God whereby we are declared righteous. This is in contrast with **sanctification** whereby God works "in the believer to bring his spiritual state up to the level of his position in Christ." Even though sanctified, we are still sinners. It is therefore the righteousness of justification that is the "fine linens" that clothe the "wife" of the Lamb. The price was Christ's blood.¹¹

REV 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

⁵ Walvoord, *THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST*, p. 272.

⁶ Levy, *REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word*, pp. 218, 219. Walvoord, *THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST*, p. 271.

⁷ Ironside, *REVELATION*, p. 205. Walvoord, *THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST*, p. 271.

⁸ LaHaye, *REVELATION ILLUSTRATED AND MADE PLAIN*, p. 252.

⁹ Levy, *REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word*, p. 220.

¹⁰ Ironside, *REVELATION*, pp. 205, 206. Mauro, *THINGS WHICH SOON MUST COME TO PASS*, p. 510.

¹¹ Walvoord, *THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST*, p. 272. Charles C. Ryrie, *BASIC THEOLOGY, A Popular Systematic Guide To Understanding Biblical Truth*, Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1986, pp. 298-300.

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There are two views as to where the marriage supper will be held. The first view holds that the marriage supper will be held in heaven during the Tribulation. The second view is that the marriage supper will be held on earth, the home of the bride, after Christ returns with his bride, and will take place during the 45 days mentioned in Daniel 12:11-12. It was customary that the wedding take place at the home of Groom, while the wedding supper was to take place at the home of the bride.¹²

The wedding guests cannot be the bride (church) or the Groom. They are friends of the bride and Bridegroom. They are the Old Testament saints, Tribulation martyrs, and the Tribulation saints who survive. They are not the Church. They are guests at the wedding.¹³ John the Baptist, one of the last of the Old Testament saints, indicated that he was a friend of the Bridegroom.¹⁴

JOH 3:29 He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but **the friend of the bridegroom**, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: **this my joy therefore is fulfilled.**

"The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." A "fellow servant" of God is one who "holds or communicates" the testimony of Jesus Christ. The direct purpose of prophecy is to point to Christ.¹⁵

Vengeance

REV 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

In contrast to the counterfeit "white horse" rider of Revelation chapter 6 verses 1 and 2, who went forth from the **earth** and on the earth, **this white horse rider, is from heaven**. This rider is the returning Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, who, to the church in Laodicea was called "Faithful and True" in Revelation 3:14.¹⁶

Jesus will come the second time with power and glory from heaven to execute righteous judgment on His enemies and deliver His earthly people. It is important to know that the Rapture and the Second Coming are separate events.¹⁷

REV 1:7 Behold, **he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him**, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

MAT 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: **30** And **then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**

ACT 1:9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. **10** And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; **11** Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? **this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**

HEB 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: **28** So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and **unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.**

His eyes are those as described earlier in Revelation, and to the church in Thyatira.

REV 1:14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and **his eyes were as a flame of fire;**

¹² Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, pp. 221, 222.

¹³ Ironside, REVELATION, p. 206. LaHaye, REVELATION ILLUSTRATED AND MADE PLAIN, p. 254. Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, p. 221.

¹⁴ Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, p. 222. LaHaye, REVELATION ILLUSTRATED AND MADE PLAIN, p. 254.

¹⁵ Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, pp. 222, 223. LaHaye, REVELATION ILLUSTRATED AND MADE PLAIN, p. 258. Walvoord, THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, p. 273.

¹⁶ Ironside, REVELATION, p. 207.

¹⁷ Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, p. 226.

REV 2:18 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath **his eyes like unto a flame of fire**, and his feet are like fine brass;

His eyes as "a flame of fire" indicate that nothing is hidden from Him. This is a strong assertion of his deity. He is ready to "detect and deal with all iniquity."¹⁸

JER 17:10 I the LORD **search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.**

The "many crowns" indicates His authority over all the kingdoms of the earth. A name that "no man knew" indicates "the mystery of His glorious person is beyond all human understanding."¹⁹ We find this idea expressed in Matthew 11:27. This is the first of His three names. Here is depicted "eternity of being, one substance with the Father, but distinct personality—true deity, and eternal Sonship."²⁰

MAT 11:27 **All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.**

His second name is "the Word of God." The second name depicts His incarnation.²¹

JOH 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.** **2** The same was in the beginning with God.

This is His "day of vengeance," the year of His "redeemed."

ISA 63:1 Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? **this that is glorious in his apparel**, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. **2** Wherefore art thou **red in thine apparel**, and **thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat**? **3 I have trodden the winepress alone**; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and **trample them in my fury**; and **their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments**, and **I will stain all my raiment.** **4 For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come....** **6 And I will tread down the people in mine anger**, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.

It appears that the Lord goes first to do battle in Edom at Petra where the remnant of the Jews fled (see Appendix, Figure 1). Next he goes nearby to meet His enemy at Bozrah in the same general locale.²²

ISA 34:2 **For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter.** **3** Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood.... **5 For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea**, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment. **6** The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: **for the LORD hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea.** **7** ... and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness. **8 For it is the day of the LORD'S vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.**

There will be vengeance against those that have contended with Zion. Israel's controversy is His.²³ In Revelation chapter 12 verse 6 we saw that Israel (the woman) fled into the wilderness.

REV 12:6 **And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God**, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

¹⁸ Mauro, THINGS WHICH SOON MUST COME TO PASS, p. 70. Ironside, REVELATION, p. 208.

¹⁹ Ironside, REVELATION, p. 208.

²⁰ Ironside, REVELATION, pp. 208, 209.

²¹ Ironside, REVELATION, p. 209.

²² Albert Barnes, BARNES NOTES: ISAIAH, Vol. 1, p. 489. Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, p. 229.

²³ Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, David Brown, A COMMENTARY: CRITICAL, EXPERIMENTAL, AND PRACTICAL ON THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS, Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Reprinted April 1993, Vol. II, p. 668.

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Revelation chapter 12 verse 6 speaks of God's preservation of the remnant of Israel during the seven-year Tribulation. The threat will come to Israel at the midpoint of the Tribulation. Thus we see that God especially cares for Israel for the remaining 3 1/2 years, "a thousand two hundred and threescore days" (1260 days).²⁴

ISA 33:15 He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; 16 He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.

Some believed that Petra in Jordan, a rock city within a mountainous area of Edom, is the place God has prepared for the remnant of Israel at this time. Because of its location, approached by a narrow passage within the mountain, Petra is easy to defend.²⁵ Others content that Petra is not a large enough stronghold to provide shelter for a large remnant of Israel.²⁶ Petra is identified as the "strong city" of Psalm 60:9.

PSA 60:9 Who will bring me into the **strong city**? Who will lead me into Edom?

In Isaiah we find Petra mentioned as a hiding place for God's outcasts from the hand of the "spoiler." The following verses probably refer to the future flight of Israel from the hand of the Beast in the Tribulation Period.²⁷

ISA 16:1 Send ye the lamb to the ruler of the land from **Sela [Petra]** to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion.... **4 Let mine outcasts dwell with thee, Moab; be thou a covert [shelter or hiding place] to them from the face of the spoiler: for the extortioner is at an end, the spoiler ceaseth, the oppressors are consumed out of the land.**

In Revelation chapter 12 verse 6 we saw that God prepared a place for her. In Revelation chapter 12 verse 14 God provides "two wings" with which she can speedily flee to the place he has prepared for her, where she is to be protected for "a time, and times, and half a time" (3-1/2 years). The eagle's wings signify miraculous swiftness.²⁸ Frustrated in his attempt to destroy the protected remnant of Israel, Satan then turns his attention against the other Tribulation Saints.

REV 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Satan will be frustrated in his attempt to destroy Israel, but he will keep trying until the very end of the Tribulation.²⁹ At the final battle Jesus' clothes are spattered with the blood of His enemies.³⁰

REV 19:14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

He leads armies (plural). These armies are the Church (the bride, Rev 19:7), the holy angels (Mat 25:31), the Old Testament Saints (Jude 14-15; Daniel 12:1, 2), and the martyred Tribulation Saints (Rev 7:13, 14; 20:4). The garments of His armies will not be stained with blood. Christ will fight alone.³¹ He promised the church of Pergamos to fight against them with the "sword of His mouth" if they didn't repent. He only needs to speak to defeat His enemies. The sword of His mouth is God's word.³²

REV 2:16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

²⁴ LaHaye, REVELATION ILLUSTRATED AND MADE PLAIN, pp. 164, 165.

²⁵ Duck, Richards, REVELATION: GOD'S WORD FOR THE BIBLICALLY-INEPT, pp. 173, 174. Phillips, EXPLORING REVELATION, pp. 157, 158.

²⁶ Jeffery, APOCALYPSE - THE COMING JUDGMENT OF NATIONS, p. 163.

²⁷ Morris, THE DEFENDERS STUDY BIBLE, Notes on Isaiah 16:1 and 4.

²⁸ Bullinger, COMMENTARY ON REVELATION, p. 416.

²⁹ LaHaye, REVELATION ILLUSTRATED AND MADE PLAIN, p. 168.

³⁰ Duck, Richards, REVELATION: GOD'S WORD FOR THE BIBLICALLY-INEPT, p. 287.

³¹ Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, p. 229. Ironside, REVELATION, p. 209. Duck, Richards, REVELATION: GOD'S WORD FOR THE BIBLICALLY-INEPT, p. 288. Walvoord, THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, pp. 277, 281.

³² Phillips, EXPLORING REVELATION, p. 233. Nathan M. Meyer, THE PATMOS PREDICTION, Oklahoma City, OK: Prophecy Publications, 1989, pp. 189, 190.

In Revelation chapter 12 verse 5 we see that Christ is to rule all nations with a rod of iron. The word "rod" means "to shepherd." This rod of iron will be used to put down all rebellion and bring order and justice.³³

REV 12:5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was **caught up unto God, and to his throne.**

The woman and her Child (the Seed) of Genesis 3:15 are the answer to the reason that anti-Semitism has dominated history throughout the last 2000 years.³⁴ The woman depicted in Genesis chapter 3:15 and Revelation 12:5 is Israel, out of which would eventually come the promised Messiah. Messiah is to rule with a "rod of iron."

PSA 2:9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

REV 2:27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

That the Child was "caught up" was fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and that He is at the throne of God is seen in the following:

REV 5:5 ... Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book.... **6** ... and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain.... **7** And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

He treads the winepress of the wrath of God, which is "the figure of unsparing judgment" (Isaiah 63:1-6).³⁵ His enemy's flesh will be consumed from their bodies while they are still standing. The flesh will rot off their bodies instantly.³⁶

ZEC 14:12 And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; **Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.**

The returning Christ has three names. The first name no man but He alone knows (Rev 19:12). The second is "The Word of God" (Rev 19:13). The third name of the returning Lord is "King of kings" and "Lord of lords," a fitting name for our Lord's Second Coming. This is His official title because He is the "Son of Man," the rightful heir of all things. The earth would not acknowledge Him and His first coming, but now He shall be exalted.³⁷

ISA 52:13 Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, **he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.**

ZEC 14:9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

The Great Supper of God – Armageddon

REV 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;
18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.
19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

³³ Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, pp. 229, 230.

³⁴ Jeremiah, Carlson, ESCAPE THE COMING NIGHT, p. 149.

³⁵ Ironside, REVELATION, p. 209.

³⁶ Levy, REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word, p. 230.

³⁷ Ironside, REVELATION, pp. 208, 209.

We now see another supper that is being served. The word translated "fowls" refers to vultures. Vultures are swift eaters that can consume the flesh of animal or man within minutes. Men of whatever station or class in life will be devoured. It will be a terrifying feeding frenzy of millions of decaying carcasses throughout a 200 mile radius.³⁸ According to Ironside the word "great" should qualify "supper," not God. It should read "the great supper of God."³⁹ Although not the same battle, this is similar to that prophesied against Gog in Ezekiel chapter 39.

EZE 39:17 And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; **Speak unto every feathered fowl**, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and **come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you**, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, **that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood.** **18 Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth**, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan. **19** And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. **20 Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war**, saith the Lord GOD.

Psalm 2 speaks of a time when God will have the last laugh.

PSA 2:1 Why do the **heathen [Gentiles]** rage, and the **people [Jews]** imagine a vain thing? **2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed**, saying, **3** Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. **4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.** **5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath**, and vex them in his sore displeasure. **6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.** **7** I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. **8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.** **9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.** **10** Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. **11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.** **12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.**

The kings of the earth will gather for battle at the place known as Armageddon.

REV 16:12 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** And **he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.**

The word translated "battle" (Gr: *Polemos*) indicates a series of battles rather than a single battle of Armageddon.⁴⁰ Revelation 16:16 is the only reference to the word "Armageddon" in Scripture. It means "Mount of Megiddo." The meaning of the complete name "Armageddon" is "The Hill of Slaughter." The root meaning of the Hebrew is "place of rendezvous," or "gathering."⁴¹ It will be the staging area for the armies gathered initially to challenge the rule of the Antichrist, but while engaged in the battles with Antichrist the battle will suddenly culminate in their destruction when Jesus Christ suddenly appears at His Second Coming. When these armies see the signs of the Lord's return, they will turn and direct their hostility toward Him. The battles will not be confined to this area, but will take place within a 200 mile radius of Jerusalem, or Armageddon.⁴² Notice the description of this event as prophesied by Daniel (see also Isaiah 11:11-16):⁴³

Dan 11:40 And at the time of the end shall the king of the south [Egypt] push at him

³⁸ Levy, *REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word*, p. 230.

³⁹ Ironside, *REVELATION*, p. 210.

⁴⁰ Levy, *REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word*, p. 185. Walvoord, *THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST*, p. 237.

⁴¹ Mauro, *THINGS WHICH SOON MUST COME TO PASS*, p. 474. Ironside, *REVELATION*, p. 182. Walvoord, *THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST*, p. 238.

⁴² Levy, *REVELATION: Hearing the Last Word*, p. 185. Walvoord, *THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST*, pp. 238, 279.

⁴³ John Phillips, Jerry Vines, *EXPLORING THE BOOK OF DANIEL*, Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1990, pp. 192-194. Walvoord, *THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST*, p. 237.

[Antichrist]: and the king of the north [Syria, Turkey, Lebanon?] shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. **41** He shall enter also into the glorious land **[Israel]**, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. **42** He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of **Egypt** shall not escape **[he conquers them]**. **43** But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the **Libyans** and the **Ethiopians** shall be at his steps **[they will pursue him]**. **44** But **tidings out of the east and out of the north [the kings of the east gathered at the Euphrates?]** shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. **45** And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain **[he resides in Israel]**; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him **[Second Coming]**.

We will now see the conclusion and the final overthrow of all the enemies of God as prophesied by Zechariah.⁴⁴

ZEC 14:1 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. **2** For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. **3** Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.... **12** And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. **13** And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from the LORD shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbour, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbor [confusion].

REV 14:14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

John saw Jesus, the Son of man, as King of kings and Lord of lords. The harvest of the earth was about to begin.⁴⁵

DAN 7:13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. **14** And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

MAT 13:30 Let both [wheat and tares] grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.... **39** The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

REV 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

Revelation chapter 14 verse 15 began a second group of three angels whose purpose is to bring their message of judgment. The first three spoke of imminent judgment. These last three speak of implementation of that judgment, preparing for the great day of God at Armageddon.⁴⁶ This fourth angel (Rev 14:15) coming out of the Temple brings a message from the Father to the Son to begin the great harvest of the Wicked.⁴⁷

REV 14:16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

⁴⁴ Barnes, NOTES ON THE NEW TESTAMENT: REVELATION, p. 338.

⁴⁵ Barnes, NOTES ON THE NEW TESTAMENT: REVELATION, p. 349.

⁴⁶ Morris, THE REVELATION RECORD, p. 272.

⁴⁷ Barnes, NOTES ON THE NEW TESTAMENT: REVELATION, p. 349. Morris, THE REVELATION RECORD, p. 273.

He thrust in His sickle of judgment and reaped the earth. This reaping probably refers to the worldwide judgments of the second half of the Tribulation when the seven bowls of wrath are poured out as described in Revelation chapter 16.⁴⁸

REV 14:17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

This fifth angel (Rev 14:17) represents the final judgment of God on the wicked.⁴⁹ This angel had a sickle to be used on the wicked, probably to be used on the Beast and his followers at Armageddon.⁵⁰

MAT 13:40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. **41** The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; **42** And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

REV 14:18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, **Thrust in thy sharp sickle**, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. **19** And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and **cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God**.

The armies at Armageddon are gathered to go against the Antichrist who now resides at Jerusalem. Some of these armies will stream toward a showdown in the Valley of Jehoshaphat. The Valley of Jehoshaphat is only mentioned in Joel, and is known as the Kidron Valley which is the ravine between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives.⁵¹ Others believe that the Valley of Jehoshaphat is in the divide made when an earthquake splits the Mount of Olives (Zec 14:4). In either case, this is where it is thought that Christ will judge the individuals of Gentile nations (Mat 25:31-46; sheep and goats) that survive the Tribulation since Jehoshaphat means *Jehovah judges*.⁵²

JOE 3:2 I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.

The opposing armies that are arrayed against Antichrist will initially be staged at Armageddon.

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

There will be many gathered in that day. They will eventually war against Christ at His return.

JOE 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

Many of the adversaries will meet their judgment in the winepress of God. If this small confined high walled valley is the winepress, then the slaughter of multitudes by the returning Christ and the blood reaching the horses bridles makes sense.

HEB 10:26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, **27** But a certain fearful looking for **of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries**.

REV 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it **he should smite the nations**: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and **he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God**.

⁴⁸ Morris, *THE REVELATION RECORD*, p. 274.

⁴⁹ Barnes, *NOTES ON THE NEW TESTAMENT: REVELATION*, p. 338.

⁵⁰ Morris, *THE REVELATION RECORD*, p. 274.

⁵¹ Sir William Smith, *A DICTIONARY OF THE BIBLE*, *Jehoshaphat, Valley of*, Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, Sir William Smith, 1813-1893, p. 284.

⁵² David Levy, *JOEL, THE DAY OF THE LORD*, Belmawr, NJ: THE FRIEND'S OF ISRAEL Gospel Ministry, Inc., 1987, pp. 59, 60.

REV 14:20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

This sixth angel had power over fire (Rev 14:18), the usual emblem of destruction. This part of the harvest was the full force of the destruction of the wicked. This angel cried with a loud voice to Him that had the sharp sickle. The harvest was gathered and cast into the winepress of the wrath of God. A great destruction is foretold represented by the juice flowing from the winepress. There is to be a great slaughter, possibly covering a space of 200 square miles, a lake of blood. All the enemies of God will be finally destroyed.⁵³

The destruction will be so swift that the sudden spilling of blood will be like the spurting of the juice of millions of bursting grapes in a great winepress. This spurting will cover everything with blood. This vat of blood will extend 180 miles. If 10 percent of the world's population gathered to fight at the battle known as Armageddon it would conceivably amount to an army of 200 million. This number would amount to a sea of humanity, a mile wide and 180 miles long. Blood coming suddenly from such a multitude would drain toward the valley center where it would literally reach the horse's bridles.⁵⁴

REV 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Both the Antichrist and the false prophet will be taken alive and cast eternally into the "lake of fire." They will be the first occupants of this place of eternal torment. The unsaved who die prior to this time occupy temporarily the place of torment called Hades. After the Great White Throne judgment at the end of the Millennium, these too, together with Satan, will be cast eternally into the lake of fire.⁵⁵

JUD 1:7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, **suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.**

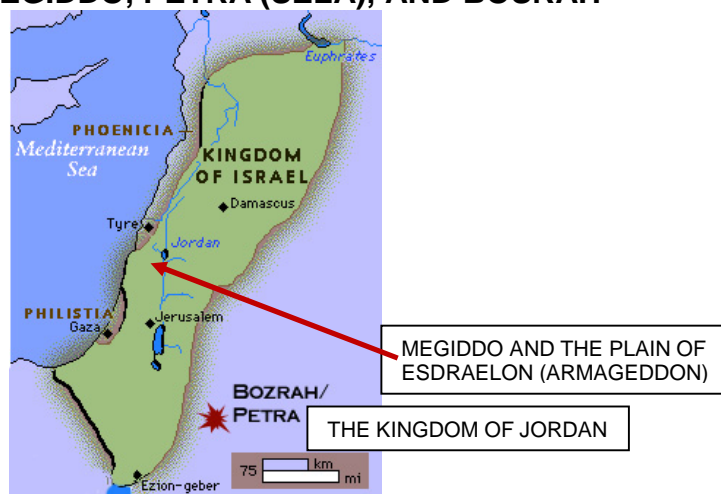
The kings of the earth will become the supper of the birds.

John Walvoord sums up with the following:

"How foolish it is to rest in the portions of the Word of God that speak of the love of God and reject the portions that deal with His righteous judgment."⁵⁶

APPENDIX

FIGURE 1 – MEGIDDO, PETRA (SELA), AND BOSRAH



⁵³ Barnes, NOTES ON THE NEW TESTAMENT: REVELATION, pp. 350, 351.

⁵⁴ Morris, THE REVELATION RECORD, pp. 276-278.

⁵⁵ Walvoord, THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, p. 280.

⁵⁶ Walvoord, THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, p. 281.