

Terrifying Things
The Ultimate Horror Movie Is Not “Just A Movie.”
It Is Real
Revelation 16: 1 – 16

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Hebrews 10:30–31

“For we know the one who said, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.” It is a **terrifying thing** to fall into the hands of the living God.” (NET)

We will be looking at “terrifying things.” Things that God has for those who have rejected His mercy, His grace, and His love.

There are some who believe that once the bowls start pouring, there is no longer repentance available. The temple in heaven is closed.

Revelation 15:8

“And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.” (NASB95)

Why can no one enter the temple? There can only be one answer – and I’m afraid it is a grim and traumatic answer indeed, I’m convinced that the fact the temple has become impassable means the time has come when repentance is no longer possible. For thousands of years God has been patient with mankind – but no longer. Once this scene of judgement begins, it will be played out to the fullest. It is then too late to pray. (Stedman 1991, 292)

1 John 4:8

“The person who does not love does not know God, because **God is love.**” (1 John 4:8, NET)

Before we go further into the graphic details of chapter 16, we need to remember this. God is love. He has provided the means of escape from judgement and He does not want anyone to go through what we are going to look at. And it is very clear that the unholy trinity has no love at all, they are the exact opposite.

John 3:16–21

“For **God so loved the world**, that **he gave his only Son**, that **whoever believes** in him **should not perish but have eternal life**. For **God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world**, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God**. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. **For everyone who does wicked things hates the light** and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.” (ESV)

We are about to enter a section of scripture that provides very graphic descriptions of God’s judgement on those who reject Him and persecute and kill those who love Him. This is hardly PG stuff. God is love, we cannot forget that. Even as we investigate chapter 16.

Because of where we are going in the scriptures, and what is there; I think it is important for us to remember what it is that Jesus was talking about back in John 3 when he met with Nicodemus one evening.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a professional religious law keeper and he had enough questions, as a result of his personal world being shaken by what it was Jesus was saying, that he came privately to ask some questions. Jesus still is available to us today for all private conversations by the way, including ones by unbelievers wanting to know if He is real. God is love and because of that fact, that He is love, He sent His Son to planet earth to reclaim all that the enemy had stolen in Genesis 3.

This is key phrase, “**God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world**, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” We catch the heart of God in that statement. His desire is that all would be saved. That is the escape clause.

Why does He delay currently, simple “The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some people understand slowness, but is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to perish, but wants everyone to repent.” (2 Peter 3:9, ISV)

We clearly see God’s heart, but the next statement to Nicodemus from Jesus shows us what happens if we chose to remain in rebellion

“Whoever believes in him is not condemned, **but whoever does not believe is condemned already...**”

Those who repent and recognize their need for Jesus, are saved. There is no judgement for believers, period. “There is therefore now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus**. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.” (Romans 8:1–2, ESV) There is a “what did you do with it” meeting yet to come for believers, but not a judgement. Consider it a final job review. “So then **each of us will give an account of himself to God**.” (Romans 14:12, ESV)

2 Corinthians 5:10

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” (NASB95)

1 Corinthians 3:12–17

“Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person’s work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames. Don’t you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the

Spirit of God lives in you? God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple. **For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.**" (NLT)

That final sentence is key to what is happening in Revelation 16, that, plus the statement from Jesus saying those who do not believe have been judged already.

God knows everything, He is omniscient. There is nothing hidden from Him...ever. Jonah can tell you that. He knows who will believe, and He also knows those who will remain in rebellion and not believe. We all have free will and He allows for that, it is part of us being imagers of Him.

Isaiah 46:9–10

"Remember the former things from eternity, that I am God, and there is no one further besides me, who declares beforehand the final things before they happen, and at once they are accomplished. And I said, "All my counsel will stand, and I will do all that I have resolved."" (Lexham Press 2020, Is 46:9-10)

Ephesians 1:3–6

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son." (NLT)

Because He knows who would believe, He also knows those who would not believe, no matter how much He does to communicate His word to them, to include direct messaging from angels here in Revelation, rebellion continues. Remember "the rebel" and his former job.

Isaiah 14:12–15

"Look how you have fallen from the sky, O shining one, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the ground, O conqueror of the nations! You said to yourself, "I will climb up to the sky. Above the stars of El I will set up my throne. I will rule on the mountain of assembly on the remote slopes of Zaphon. I will climb up to the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High!" But you were brought down to Sheol, to the remote slopes of the pit." (NET)

Ezekiel 28:13–18

"You were in Eden, the garden of God. Every precious stone was your covering, the ruby, topaz, and emerald, the chrysolite, onyx, and jasper, the sapphire, turquoise, and beryl; your settings and mounts were made of gold. On the day you were created they were prepared. I placed you there with an anointed guardian cherub; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked about amidst fiery stones. You were blameless in your behavior from the day you were created, until sin was discovered in you. In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned; so I defiled you and banished you from the mountain of God—the guardian cherub expelled you from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom on account of your splendor. I threw you down to the ground; I placed you before kings, that they might see you. By the multitude of your iniquities, through the sinfulness of your trade, you desecrated your sanctuaries. So I drew fire out from within you; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth before the eyes of all who saw you." (NET)

Lucifer, even though positioned at the throne of YHWH Himself, rebelled. He had free will and made an incredibly short-sighted decision – and he encourages others to join him in that rebellion.

John 3:19–21

"This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and **men loved the darkness** rather than the Light, for **their deeds were evil**. For **everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come**

to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.” (NASB95)

Because God is love, He must judge evil and deal with the rebellion. In Revelation 16, we come now to the world very near the end of the Great Tribulation. This is a picture of a world without hope, a world of despair.

Mark 13:20

“Unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He shortened the days.” (NASB95)

Lucifer’s ultimate goal is killing all of us, and Jesus says in Mark that part of the reason for His intervention which is displayed in the bowl judgements, is to prevent that from taking place. It is a very real threat that God takes very seriously.

This judgment is not the result of man’s or Satan’s enmity. **It is the direct action of the Lord Jesus Christ.** We have seen the gentle Jesus, and now we see the wrath of the Lamb. You never think of a little lamb as being angry. A lion can roar, but not a little lamb. The wrath of the Lamb is going to startle the world someday. (McGee 1997)

C. S. Lewis makes the same point as well. *“Aslan is a lion—the Lion, the great Lion.” “Ooh!” said Susan, “I’d thought he was a man. Is he—quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion.” “That you will, dearie, and no mistake,” said Mrs. Beaver; “if there’s anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they’re either braver than most or else just silly.” “Then he isn’t safe?” said Lucy. “Safe?” said Mr. Beaver; “don’t you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the King, I tell you.”*” (Lewis 1998, 79-80)

Isaiah 61:2

“to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor, and **the day of vengeance of our God**; to comfort all who mourn;” (ESV)

Revelation 16:1

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.” (NASB95)

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” (NASB95)

One thing we pick up from the text is that once the command to pour out the bowls is given; they are all poured out in rapid succession. There is only one pause that takes place. These are all supernatural, but they also could be the ultimate results of events during the past 6 plus years.

Isaiah 66:6

“A voice of uproar from the city, a voice from the temple, The voice of the LORD who is rendering recompense to His enemies.” (NASB95)

Daniel 7:13–14

“I continued to watch in a vision of the night, and look, upon the clouds of the heavens, a being like a son of man came, and the ancient of days was present, and his attendants were present with him. Authority and royal honor was granted to him, and all the peoples of the earth according to races, and all honor will be directed to him, and his authority is an eternal authority that will not be removed, and his kingdom is one that will not perish.” (Lexham Press 2020, Dan 7:13-14)

Philippians 2:9–11

“For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (NASB95)

All things have been given to Christ; it is His voice we hear coming from the temple in heaven. He is the avenger of blood, He is fulfilling Isaiah 61:2b, the phrase beyond the comma He stopped at previously in the synagogue. Remember, He is worthy

Revelation 5:11–14

“Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, **“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”** And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, **“To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”** And the four living creatures kept saying, **“Amen.”** And the elders fell down and worshiped.” (NASB95)

Christ is firmly in control and He is the one saying “Go.”

Permission to proceed having been given (cf. 14:15, 14:18), the Seven advance one by one, each in his own order. (Swete 1906, 197)

No sooner was the word of command given than it was immediately obeyed. No delay or objection was made. (Henry 1999, 140)

Where is it that we, as created beings, think we can ignore the commands of Jesus Christ? The commands of God Almighty?

We tend to delay obedience even to the point of questioning what it is that is asked of us. His yoke is easy, and His burden is light, all we need to do is obey what it is He says.

John 14:15

““If you love me, you will obey my commandments.” (NET)

These faithful divine beings, these angels, reflect for us how we should react when the Lord asks, immediate and unquestioning obedience.

Revelation 16:2

“So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.” (NASB95)

A reminder from Revelation 14:9-11, God has a special plan for those who have aligned their loyalties to the unholy trinity and taken the mark of the beast and followed his image

Revelation 14:11

“And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” (NASB95)

Shades of Exodus 9

Exodus 9:8–10

Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Take for yourselves handfuls of soot from a kiln, and let Moses throw it toward the sky in the sight of Pharaoh. It will become fine dust over all the land of Egypt,

and will become boils breaking out with sores on man and beast through all the land of Egypt.” So they took soot from a kiln, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses threw it toward the sky, and it became boils breaking out with sores on man and beast. (NASB95)

The boils were selective, “The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were **on the magicians** as well as on **all the Egyptians**.” (Exodus 9:11, NASB95)

We see the same situation here as well. Only those who took the mark are impacted. Since the beginning of the Great Tribulation, those who took the mark have been able to buy and sell with impunity. They have had food whereas those who did not take the mark have been subjected to starvation, persecution, systematic murder and elimination from the planet.

Now, all who have taken the mark have received a “loathsome and malignant sore.”

Κακὸν (kakon) - to being socially or morally reprehensible, bad, evil: of human characteristics, actions, emotion, plans; being harmful or injurious, evil, injurious, dangerous, pernicious, of things or conditions. (Arndt, Danker and Bauer 2000, 501)

Πονηρὸν (poneron) - to being morally or socially worthless, wicked, evil, bad, base, worthless, vicious, degenerate of humans or transcendent beings. (Arndt, Danker and Bauer 2000, 851)

In the physical sense—in poor condition, sick painful, virulent, serious sore, ulcer, bad, spoiled, worthless. (Arndt, Gingrich, et al. 1979, 690)

“Loathsome and malignant” translate two general Greek words for evil. Used together, they stress that the sores will be festering, painful, and incurable. These sores will bring unrelieved physical torment to those who have rejected Jesus Christ. (MacArthur 2007, 249)

The mark does not impact anyone who has not taken the mark. Only those who have taken it are impacted. Some have conjectured that the mark is genetic in origin which makes those receiving it are no longer human, but beast like, which means this could be as a result of obtaining it. An unforeseen side effect possibly. We do know it could also be entirely supernatural.

Sore - ἕλκος (helkos) - wound or sore, abscess, ulcer. (Arndt, Danker and Bauer, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature 2000, 317)

Luke 16:20–21

“And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores.” (ESV)

So worldwide, all who have received the mark, possibly billions, all have open puss filled runny sores develop everywhere on their bodies all at the same time. They would have trouble sitting, standing, talking, eating, and the drugs ran out in how many days?

What we do know, at the point of this judgement, all who have received the mark are covered all over their bodies with oozing, open, running painful sores.

Psalms 10:3

“For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul, and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD.” (ESV)

For centuries, the wickedness of an evil man was internal only, now no longer, as what is on the inside comes oozing to the outside.

Then comes the second bowl.

Revelation 16:3

“The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became blood **like that of a dead man**; and every living thing in the sea died.” (NASB95)

In Exodus 7:19, God turned the waters of Egypt into blood, the second trumpet judgement also resulted in 1/3 of the sea turning into blood. Now it is “the sea,” all of it. This time is different though, “it became blood like that of a dead man.”

The Greek text here is very graphic. Literally it reads, “And it (sea) became blood as of a dead man,” i.e., like a dead man wallowing in his own blood. (Keathley III 2002, Re 16:3)

The first bowl showed the impotence of the unholy trinity to prevent disease from taking place among their followers. They could do nothing to solve the problem. The second bowl continues to show the complete impotence of the beast as all the oceans of the world turn to blood and then everything in the ocean, everywhere on earth, all at once, dies, floats up to the surface and begins to wash up on the shore.

The stench must be terrible at this time. The impact on shipping and transportation unimaginable.

Revelation 16:4–7

Then the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters saying, “Righteous are You, who are and who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things; for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it.” And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.” (NASB95)

Now all the sources of fresh water become blood. Apparently still drinkable, but like blood. Unlike the seal judgement which impacted a third of the waters, this impacts all sources of fresh water.

This is the timing of the only pause in the bowl judgements. The angel who poured out the third bowl provides us comment. “Righteous are You, who are and who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things; for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. **They deserve it.**” (Revelation 16:5–6, NASB95)

Remember all those martyrs beneath the altar back in Revelation 6:9, how they were told to wait until the number was completed. They are apparently still there as they also provide comment, “And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.”” (Revelation 16:7, NASB95)

When these judgments come, the time must be very short until the return of Jesus. With ecological disaster such as this, the human race cannot survive long. (Guzik 2013, Re 16:4)

Revelation 16:8–9

“The fourth angel poured out his bowl upon the sun, and it was given to it to scorch men with fire. Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory.” (NASB95)

You want global warming? After the catastrophes and war of the past six years, how surprising is it that when the sun enters a normal hot cycle, that now there is nothing to protect the earth? Worldwide thermonuclear war has the potential of altering the axis of the earth and it also has the potential of eliminating protections, like ozone, that were built in by God. Yes this is a supernatural judgement, but it could be as simple as wiping away all the soot and dirt from the activity of the past 6 years or so.

Note the reaction of the earth dwellers to the scorching sun...”they blasphemed the name of God...” Remember that, as it will come into play with the seventh bowl.

Their blasphemy is an active cursing of God for bringing such punishments on them. John sees that “they are so deeply entangled in their hostility toward God that even now, in view of the destruction, they are not prepared to repent and give him the honor. Instead, they remain in their cult of the hostile, demonic power and thus in the blasphemy of the true God. (Reddish 2001, 306)

The faithful are clearly exempt from this type of affliction as the promise of an opposite future for them in 7:16 shows. (Thomas 1995, 257)

Revelation 7:16–17

“They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.” (NASB95)

Malachi 4:1

““For indeed **the day is coming, burning like a furnace**, and all the arrogant evildoers will be chaff. The coming day will burn them up,” says the LORD who rules over all. “It will not leave even a root or branch.”” (NET)

So for the earth dweller, the one who took the mark of the beast as a sign of loyalty, what is their current physical condition?

- They are covered head to toe with runny puss filled open sores making them susceptible to other disease
- The only water available to drink is blood water and if you live near the coast, it smells bad
- Now the coast has moved inland with global warming and serious sun burns and intolerable heat.
- They are hungry as most crops have died due to a lack of water and too much sun and heat
- There is no such thing as sea food anymore and most global trade is toast
- Aircraft will have difficulty flying due to the heat and resultant apparent pressure altitudes connected with the heat
- So those who follow the beast...continue to do so blaspheming God. They know who is responsible.

...the intense heat of the sun will also produce another effect which will, at least for a time, somewhat compensate for oceanic evaporation. That is, the great ice sheets on Greenland and the continent of Antarctica will melt. There is enough ice stored in these great reservoirs, it is estimated, to raise the world's sea levels about 200 feet if it were all melted. (Morris 1983, 304)

By way of contrast, for the 144,00, those faithful Jews as well as those believers who remain at this point.

- No sores, but trouble finding food due to the mark restriction, the blood water is drinkable, but it is possible that for the believer the water is water.
- There are pockets of normal around the earth as those who are remaining faithful are being kept safe from the heat
- First water levels are up, then due to evaporation, they drop dramatically, if the blood water can evaporate. It may not be possible thus breaking the hydrologic cycle.

Revelation 16:10–11

“Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on **the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain, and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.**” (NASB95)

Think about it, severe heat, SPF 110 will not work, the heat is terrible, everywhere. The stench from what used to be the oceans and the ice has melted from everywhere. There is no sea ice, global warming has been achieved and there have been massive dislocations of population as a result. Everyone wants it to cool off, but everywhere, the lights go out. No moon, no starlight, just black darkness.

Everywhere which is the Beast's kingdom is pitch black. The unholy trinity is impotent to prevent it or change it. This is not just at nighttime, but 24 hours a day – total lights out.

In Revelation 8, with the 4th trumpet judgement, darkness was only 1/3 of the time, but now it is total. No lights in buildings either.

This is a repeat of one of the actions taken once before and affecting only one nation, Egypt.

Exodus 10:21–23

“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.” So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was pitch darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, **but all the people of Israel had light where they lived.**” (ESV)

So now all the followers of the Beast can do is sit in the dark in utter misery from the sores which are all over their bodies as well as the skin lesions resulting from overexposure to solar radiation.

There is some disagreement among commentators as to whether this is global or only on the area immediately around the Beast's headquarters.

Regardless of the exact location where the bowl is dumped, the result is that darkness engulfs the whole earth, which is Antichrist's worldwide kingdom. The beast will be as helpless before the power of God as anyone else. (MacArthur 2007, 253)

What is perhaps most striking about their response is that “people” both gnawed their tongues in agony and then used their tongues, not in this case to “curse the name of God,” but to curse the God of heaven because of their pains and sores. Thus in typical fashion the unbelieving world refuses to acknowledge God when things go well for them, but when things go badly, God is to blame. And the result tends regularly to be the same—they refused to repent of what they had done. (Fee 2011, 221)

Gnawing their tongues, where have we heard something like that before?

Jesus spoke a bit about what eternal punishment, hell, would be like.

Matthew 8:12

“But the unfaithful heirs of that kingdom will be thrown into the darkness outside. In that place there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” (ISV)

Matthew 25:30

“Throw this useless servant into the darkness outside! In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (ISV)

By throwing the kingdom of the Beast into a darkness they cannot leave, one they can feel, one that makes them sit, they do so and begin to experience the pain of all that has happened to them

The followers of the beast are receiving a preview of what kind of conditions they will be living under for all eternity.

Revelation 14:9–11

Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. “And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” (NASB95)

John 1:1–5

“In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.” (NLT)

It is obvious here in Revelation 16, there still exists a comprehension problem with those following the beast. He is simply giving them what they love.

John 3:19–21

“And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, **but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.** All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.” (NLT)

How fitting is this bowl

The result of this, on top of the sores, water problems, stench, and severe sunburns - “and **they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent** of their deeds.” (Revelation 16:11, NASB95) This is the last time to repent appears in Revelation.

Every new judgment on the earth has merely hardened still further man’s unrepentant heart. It is as though men have become so possessed with hatred for God that they are eager for a final confrontation, a great battle that will determine forever who will be king of the universe, its gracious Creator or the great rebel, the old serpent. They have irrevocably chosen the dragon and received the mark of the beast, still believing that he will ultimately deliver them from the fearful plagues and judgments of the God of heaven. But they cannot endure the pains of the plagues much longer, and eagerly press toward the great contest. (Morris 1983, 307)

Revelation 16:12–16

“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. 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; 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. (“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.”) And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.” (NASB95)

Recall with the sixth trumpet, that four bound fallen angels were let loose and a demon army attacked the earth dwellers killing a billion or so. That was about 3 to 4 years in the past, it is something everyone would still remember. Now with this bowl, the Euphrates dries up. Whether this means the water cycle has ended due to blood in the what used to be water, extreme heat drying everything up followed by no light and no evaporation for an extended period resulting in no rain, at the end of the day, the Euphrates is dry and this might be characteristic of all the rivers in the world at this time, we are not told, we are only told about one specific river.

This is not something new, the prophets talked about it

Isaiah 50:2–3

“Why have I come and there was no human? I called and there was no one who was listening? Is my hand not strong enough to rescue? Or am I not able to set free? Look! In my reproach **I will desolate the sea and turn rivers into deserts, and I will dry up their fish because there is no water, and they will die in thirst. I will clothe the heavens with darkness and make its cloak like sackcloth.**” (Lexham Press 2020, Is 50:2-3)

This bowl makes the necessary preparations for the final battle of all history. It also shows that there may no longer be a unified world government and troop movement against the Beast begins, or it may also be troop movements per the beast.

Nahum 1:3–6

“The Lord is longsuffering, and his strength is great, and the Lord will not hold the guiltless innocent. His way is in consummation and commotion, and clouds are the dust of his feet. **He is threatening the sea and drying it up, and making desolate all the rivers.** The Bashan and the Carmel were diminished, and the blooming flowers of Lebanon came to an end. The mountains quaked from him, and the hills were shaken, and the earth was removed from his face, the whole of it, and all dwelling in it. Who will withstand from the face of his wrath? And who will stand against his wrathful anger? His wrath consumes authorities, and the rocks were broken by him.” (Lexham Press 2020, Na 1:3-6)

Jeremiah 50:38

“A drought on her waters, and they will be dried up! For it is a land of idols, And they are mad over fearsome idols.” (NASB95)

Judgement is indeed coming to Babylon, just as predicted by Jeremiah who also predicted the waters of Babylon would be dried up. Indeed, they were the first time for the Medes and Persians to take over, they will be completely dry the next time around.

Revelation 16:13–14

“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; 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.” (NASB95)

After all that has taken place, the unholy trinity now uses demons to draw all the forces to them that will be needed to solve the problem about the Jews once and for all. Recall that for 3 ½ years the Beast and his forces have been unable to act on the large number of Jews who are refugees and being kept supernaturally by God

They act in unison in forcing the nations of the world to march against Israel in an attempt to destroy God’s purposes on earth. (McGee 1997, 1026)

The dragon, beast, and false prophet will evidently join in making a proclamation that will mobilize the armies of the world to converge on Palestine. Something proceeding from the mouth suggests a proclamation. (Constable 2003, Re 16:13)

There is a reminder though placed into the text by the Holy Spirit for those of use reading and studying this today and not actually going through the events in real time. There are also those who are in hiding at the time of these events.

Revelation 16:15

“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.” (NASB95)

The saints in view here are evidently those still on earth who have been able to escape martyrdom even though remaining true to their Lord. It is probable that the beast will not be able to enforce his edict of death on those who are located in the outer reaches of his empire, and that he will not find all those who are in hiding (cf. Matt. 24:16). (Walvoord 2008, 238)

Revelation 16:16

“And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.” (NASB95)

John tells us this is a Hebrew place name where all the armies are going to gather.

The term in the Greek of Revelation 16:16 is Ἀρμαγεδών (harmagedon). Remember, it is a term in the Hebrew being transliterated into Greek. It does not point to the plain of Megiddo.

This spelling becomes significant when we try to discern what this Hebrew term means. The first part of the term (har) is easy. In Hebrew har means “mountain.” Our term is therefore divisible into har-magedon, “Mount (of) magedon.” The question is, what is magedon? (Heiser 2015, 369)

By the way, is there a Mount at Meggido?



(Bolen 2012, Used with Permission)

Not really. Megiddo is sitting on a tell, an artificial mound, not a mountain at all, in fact the area there is relatively flat.

Revelation 19 shows us that Jesus comes and ends the battle defeating the beast. And we see here in Revelation 16:16 it takes place at har-megadon

I do not believe that battle will be taking place in the valley adjacent to Megiddo.

Zechariah 12:9–11

““At that time, I will search out and destroy all of the nations who have come against Jerusalem. I will pour out on the house of David and on the residents of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and of supplications, and they will look to me—the one whom they pierced.” Then they will mourn for him, as for an only son. They will grieve bitterly for him, as for a firstborn son. At that time, **Jerusalem will mourn deeply, like the mourning about Hadad-rimmon that took place in the plain of Megiddo.**” (ISV)

The mourning at Hadad-Rimmon being referenced is the mourning that took place after King Josiah was killed.

2 Chronicles 35:22–25

“Josiah did not turn his face away from him, but he was strengthened to battle him and did not heed the words of Neco through the mouth of God and went to make war in the plain of Megiddo. And the bowmen shot at King Josiah. And the king said to his servants, “Carry me out, because I have suffered very much.” His servants brought him out from the chariot and mounted him on the second chariot that was to him and brought him to Jerusalem. And he died and was buried with his ancestors, and all Judah and Jerusalem mourned over Josiah. And Jeremiah sang a dirge for Josiah, and all the rulers and the women

rulers said a lament over Josiah until today. They gave it for an ordinance over Israel, and look, it is written in the laments.” (Lexham Press 2020, 2 Chron 35:22-25)

The phrase in question exists in the Hebrew Bible as *har mo'ed*. Incredibly, it is found in Isaiah 14:13, a passage many readers will immediately recognize. (Heiser 2015, 371)

Isaiah 14:13

“You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the **mount of assembly** in the far reaches of the north;” (ESV)

Zechariah 14:3–5

“Then the LORD will go out to battle against those nations, waging war as in a day of battle. His feet will stand in that day on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem. Then the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a very large valley, with half of the mountain moving toward the north and half toward the south. You will run away through my mountain valley, because the valley of the mountains will extend as far as Azal. You will flee, as you fled from the earthquake during the reign of King Uzziah of Judah. And so the LORD my God will come, and all his holy ones will be accompanying you.” (ISV)

Armageddon is about how the unbelieving nations, empowered by the antichrist, empowered by the prince of darkness—Lord (ba'al) of the dead, prince Baal (zbl ba'al), Beelzebul—will make one last, desperate effort to defeat Jesus at the place where Yahweh holds council, Mount Zion, Jerusalem. (Heiser 2015, 373)

Where were the 144,000 from Revelation 14? Mount Zion. Where does Jesus set foot? The Mount of Olives directly across from Mount Zion. What happens when He lands? A new valley forms splitting the Mount of Olives.

The battle of Armageddon will indeed spread across much of Israel, but Jesus is coming from Bozrah to the Mount of Olives. Bozrah is in Jordan near the Dead Sea, nowhere near Megiddo. The battle being referenced in Revelation 16:16 is in Jerusalem

Isaiah 4:2–6

“In that day the Branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth will be the pride and the adornment of the survivors of Israel. It will come about that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded for life in Jerusalem. When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and purged the bloodshed of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning, then the LORD will create over the **whole area of Mount Zion and over her assemblies** a cloud by day, even smoke, and the brightness of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory will be a canopy. There will be a shelter to give shade from the heat by day, and refuge and protection from the storm and the rain.” (NASB95)

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