

Terrifying Things
(Continued)
Revelation 16:12 – 21

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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.

If it is the armies of the east no longer holding to the hegemony of the beast, the overall impact is still the same, all the armies of the world are being drawn to one central location in Israel.

Recall that at the midpoint of the tribulation this military leader, who had a severe wound that is healed, entered the Temple in Jerusalem and declared himself to be god. From Jesus.

Matthew 24:15–16

“So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” (ESV)

Daniel described the campaigns of this individual from a military perspective in Daniel 11. The campaigns could be prior to the Great Tribulation, or they could be a description of what is about to take place as the lead up to the final battle outside of his headquarters near Jerusalem.

Daniel 11:36–45

““And the king will act according to his will, and he will be provoked to anger, and he will be exalted above every god, and against the God of gods. He will utter excessive arrogance, and he will prosper along his way until the appointed wrath is accomplished for him, for a conclusion is coming. And he will have no concern for the gods of his fathers, and he will have no care with any desire of a woman, because he will be exalted in every way possible, and powerful nations will be under him. He will move in its place, even a god whom his fathers did not know he will honor with gold and silver and precious stone and with desirable costly objects. He will act concerning cities, and for a powerful stronghold. He will come with a strange god whom he acknowledges. He will increase his influence and it will gain dominion over him greatly, and the territory he will divide up as a gift. “And during the time of the consummation, the king of Egypt will engage in fierce horned combat with him, and the king of the north will be furious with him, using chariots and many horses and using many ships. And he will enter into the territory of Egypt. And he will come on into my territory. Many will be entrapped, **but these will be saved from his hand: Edom and Moab and the chief sons of Ammon.** And he will send his hand among the lands, and in the territory of Egypt there will be no one in it who is delivered. And he will exercise power over the place of gold and the place of silver and over all the desired wealth of Egypt. And Put and Ethiopia will be among his multitude. And a report will trouble him from the east and north, and he will leave in a fierce rage and with a sword to destroy and kill many. And he will set up his tent at that time between the seas and the favored holy mountain. And the time of his end will come, and there will be no one who helps him.” (Lexham Press 2020, Dan 11:36-45)

Whatever the timing is, we are looking at events in the last days after the church has departed, just prior to the physical return of Jesus Christ to take over.

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 will come upon her land; her rivers and canals will be dried up. All of this will happen because her land is filled with idols. Her people act like madmen because of those idols they fear.” (NET)

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. In fact, John will talk at length about Babylon.

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

In describing the foul spirits as proceeding from the mouths of the dragon, beast, and false prophet, John indicates their role: they are promoters of lies and propaganda in order to deceive the people and lead them to destruction. As with the second beast (false prophet) in 13:11–18, their false words will be reinforced by the deceptive signs that they perform. The specific task of the lying frog-like spirits is to rouse the kings throughout the world and assemble them for the final battle against God. (Reddish 2001, 310)

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)

This is the third blessing we see in the book of Revelation. The first was in Revelation 1:3

Revelation 1:3

“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.” (NASB95)

Revelation 14:13

And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, “Write, ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!’ ” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them.” (NASB95)

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)

Blessed if we read or hear the words of the prophecy.

Blessed are those who die in the Lord when the beast arrives.
Blessed is the one who is awake and keeps his garments.

Remember the warning to the church in Laodicea?

Revelation 3:18

“I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.” (NASB95)

This describes those who will be prepared for His arrival. The imagery here is of soldiers alert and on duty. Only a soldier who stays awake and keeps his clothes on is ready for combat. Only those whom Jesus finds prepared when He returns will be blessed. (MacArthur 2007, 255)

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?

Zechariah 12:9–11

“So on that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.” “I will pour out on the kingship of David and the population of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication so that they will look to me, the one they have pierced. They will lament for him as one laments for an only son, and there will be a bitter cry for him like the bitter cry for a firstborn. On that day **the lamentation in Jerusalem will be as great as the lamentation at Hadad-Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.**” (NET)

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 12:1–4

“This message concerning the fate of Israel came from the LORD: “This message is from the LORD, who stretched out the heavens, laid the foundations of the earth, and formed the human spirit. I will make Jerusalem like an intoxicating drink that makes the nearby nations stagger when they send their armies to besiege Jerusalem and Judah. On that day I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock. All the nations will gather against it to try to move it, but they will only hurt themselves. “On that day,” says the LORD, “I will cause every horse to panic and every rider to lose his nerve. I will watch over the people of Judah, but I will blind all the horses of their enemies.” (NLT)

Zechariah 14:3–5

“Then the LORD will go out to fight against those nations, as he has fought in times past. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem. And the Mount of Olives will split apart, making a wide valley running from east to west. Half the mountain will move toward the north and half toward the south. You will flee through this valley, for it will reach across to Azal. Yes, you will flee as you did from the earthquake in the days of King Uzziah of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all his holy ones with him.” (NLT)

Zechariah 14:12–14

“And the LORD will send a plague on all the nations that fought against Jerusalem. Their people will become like walking corpses, their flesh rotting away. Their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. On that day they will be terrified, stricken by the LORD with great panic. They will fight their neighbors hand to hand. Judah, too, will be fighting at Jerusalem. The wealth of all the neighboring nations will be captured—great quantities of gold and silver and fine clothing.” (NLT)

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)

The area, though it is a large one, is not sufficient for the armies of all the world, though the valley of Esdraelon is fourteen miles wide and twenty miles long. What this Scripture seems to indicate is that this area is the central point for the military conflict which ensues. Actually the armies are deployed over a 200-mile area up and down from this central location (cf. 14:20). At the time of the second coming, some of the armies are in Jerusalem itself (Zech. 14:1–3). (Walvoord 2008, 239)

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, the capital of Edom, is in Jordan south of the Dead Sea, nowhere near Megiddo. The battle being referenced in Revelation 16:16 is in Jerusalem

Isaiah 34:6

“The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, It is sated with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats, With the fat of the kidneys of rams. For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah And a great slaughter in the land of Edom.” (NASB95)

Isaiah 63:1–6

“Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? “It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save.” Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress? “I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel. For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and my year of redemption had come. I looked, but there was no one to

help; I was appalled, but there was no one to uphold; so my own arm brought me salvation, and my wrath upheld me. I trampled down the peoples in my anger; I made them drunk in my wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.” (ESV)

Isaiah 4:2–6

“In that day the branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors of Israel. And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning. **Then the LORD will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night;** for over all the glory there will be a canopy. There will be a booth for shade by day from the heat, and for a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.” (ESV)

The sixth bowl is the drying of the Euphrates, opening full access to land armies coming from the east. With mechanized infantry today, the river would not have been an issue anyhow.

My understanding of where this battle will be, once all of the troops are drawn into the area, is the area around Jerusalem.

Jesus returns to the south where His people are and then moves north to Jerusalem setting foot on the Mount of Olives setting the stage for the final battle to take place in and around the city.

Micah 4:11–13

“Now many nations are assembled against you, saying, “Let her be defiled, and let our eyes gaze upon Zion.” But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD; they do not understand his plan, that he has gathered them as **sheaves to the threshing floor**. Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion, for I will make your horn iron, and I will make your hoofs bronze; you shall beat in pieces many peoples; and shall devote their gain to the LORD, their wealth to the Lord of the whole earth.” (ESV)

Revelation 14:19–20

“So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God. And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses’ bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.” (NASB95)

Then comes the seventh and final bowl and with it, a proclamation

Revelation 16:17–21

“Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, “**It is done.**” And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty. The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe.” (NASB95)

Notice the bowl is poured into the air. What is one of the titles for satan?

Ephesians 2:1–2

“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air**, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.” (NASB95)

There was one place left for Satan and those who he drug down with him from the heavenlies and that was earth and the sky around it, now it appears that is denied too. From the temple, the throne itself, “It is done.” History is over.

The fact that Satan has been cast out of the third heaven, however, does not mean that he still does not have great power in the atmospheric heavens which are here in view. It is also clear in our modern day that the control of the air as well as space has become increasingly important in military matters. Undoubtedly air and space travel will increase rather than decrease as the end of the age comes upon the world. Some have compared this prophecy to Ezekiel 38:9, 16 where the host from the north is said to “ascend and come like a storm” and “like a cloud to cover the land.” While this may imply an air attack, it is perhaps reading too much into the passage to assume this. In any event the seventh vial, which is poured out in the air, has its principal resulting action on the earth as the verses which follow indicate. (Walvoord 2008, 240)

“It Is Done”

From an ancient Greek scientific perspective, the judgement is indeed complete.

- Revelation 16:1 – pour out on the **earth**
- Revelation 16:3 – pour out on the sea and **waters**
- Revelation 16:8 – pour out on the sun resulting in **fire**
- Revelation 16:17 – pour out on the **air**

John 19:30

“After Jesus had taken the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and released his spirit.” (ISV)

The word Jesus used on the cross is Τετέλεσται (tetelstai) - to carry out an obligation or demand, carry out, accomplish, perform, fulfill, keep; to pay what is due, pay. (Arndt, Danker and Bauer 2000, 997-998)

Jesus paid it all on the cross, now from the temple in heaven, he uses, in the perfect tense, the word Γέγονεν (gegonen).

This comes from the Greek word γίνομαι (genomai) - to happen, with the implication that what happens is different from a previous state—‘to happen, to occur, to come to be. (Louw and Nida 1996, 160)

This term means “it has happened” or “it has come to pass,” and God’s final kingdom has now arrived. This culminates the process launched with Christ’s cry on the cross, “It is finished” (John 19:30). (Osborne 2016, 273)

Next comes the light show, or as several scholars call it, a storm theophany. Recall the appearances of God in the past in the Old Testament.

Exodus 19:16–25

“On the third day in the morning there was thunder and lightning and a dense cloud on the mountain, and the sound of a very loud horn; all the people who were in the camp trembled. Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their place at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was completely covered with smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire, and its smoke went up like the smoke of a great furnace, and the whole mountain shook violently. When the sound of the horn grew louder and louder, Moses was speaking and God was answering him with a voice. The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain, and the LORD summoned Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. The LORD said to Moses, “Go down and solemnly warn the people, lest they force their way through to the LORD to look, and many of them perish. Let the priests also, who approach the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break through against them.” Moses said to the LORD, “The people are not able to come up to Mount Sinai, because you solemnly warned us, ‘Set boundaries for the mountain and set it apart.’” The LORD said to him, “Go, get down, and come up, and

Aaron with you, but do not let the priests and the people force their way through to come up to the LORD, lest he break through against them.” So Moses went down to the people and spoke to them.” (NET)

1 Kings 19:11–13

“The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD. Look, the LORD is ready to pass by.” A very powerful wind went before the LORD, digging into the mountain and causing landslides, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the windstorm there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake, there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. After the fire, there was a soft whisper. When Elijah heard it, he covered his face with his robe and went out and stood at the entrance to the cave. All of a sudden a voice asked him, “Why are you here, Elijah?”” (NET)

Isaiah 13:9–13

“Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light. I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless. I will make people more rare than fine gold, and mankind than the gold of Ophir. Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place, at the wrath of the LORD of hosts in the day of his fierce anger.” (ESV)

Joel 2:30–31

“I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.” (NASB95)

In the book of Revelation, there has already been 3 (4:5, 8:5, 11:19) storms as well but this one is the most severe and immediately brings the mind back to Sinai.

At Sinai, it was all about taking God’s people from the land of Egypt and into the promised land.

The lightning, thunder, and earthquake are part of the Sinai imagery and a new exodus theme, with this signifying the launch that leads to the final exodus at the return of Christ. (Osborne 2016, 273)

We had discussed that Christ had taken the deed for planet earth, a deed He paid for on the cross. He is, just as another Yeshua did, kicking out the usurpers from the land. Unlike the first Yeshua (Joshua) who was only concerned with the land of Canaan, this Yeshua (Jesus) is concerned with the entire planet.

Thus as part of the judgement comes a great earthquake.

Revelation 16:18

“And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a **great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty.**” (NASB95)

Daniel 12:1

“Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such **as never occurred since there was a nation until that time**; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.” (NASB95)

Mark 13:19–20

“For those days will be a time of tribulation **such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will.** 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)

This is not a little old 9.1 in one place, this is an earthquake that shakes the entire planet. This is the first time in Revelation that an earthquake is called “great.” Tsunamis everywhere all at once.

Recall back in Revelation 6:14, things were simply moved around a bit. “The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.” (Revelation 6:14, NASB95)

This is different, this is judgement, and this is “great.”

Revelation 16:19–20

“The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath. **And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.**” (NASB95)

All the islands of the earth – gone

The Rocky Mountains, the Sierra Nevada, the Himalayas – all flattened

Just as God had absolutely completed His mighty work of creating and making all things in His first six days (Genesis 2:1–3), so now He has absolutely completed His work of purging and changing the earth and its physical systems, enabling it to fulfill its great purposes in the kingdom age which is about to begin. (Morris 1983, 317)

When God ended the flood, He moved around the real estate and changed the face of the planet. The Psalmist told us how.

Psalm 104:5–9

“He established the earth on its foundations, so that it never falters. You covered the primeval ocean like a garment; the water stood above the mountains. They flee at your rebuke; they rush away at the sound of your thunders. Mountains rise up and valleys sink to the place you have ordained for them. You have set a boundary they cannot cross; they will never again cover the earth.” (ISV)

Now He, as the creator, the judge, the God of the Universe will restore the planet back to the condition it was in prior to the flood.

Haggai 2:6–7

“For this is what the LORD of the Heavenly Armies says: “Once more, in a little while, I will make the heavens, the earth, the sea, and the dry land to shake. I will shake all nations, and the One desired by all nations will come. Then I will fill this house with glory,” says the LORD of the Heavenly Armies.” (ISV)

Most of the cities of the world are destroyed by this earthquake and so is “the great city was split into three parts.”

So what city are we talking about?

Scholars differ on this point, some say Jerusalem, others say Babylon.

Babylon though is to be destroyed completely. “Then a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, ‘So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer.’” (Revelation 18:21, NASB95)

Jerusalem though is in for a serious face lift. When Jesus lands, as we have seen in Zechariah 14:4, changes take place in the topography. Ezekiel also revealed a significantly changed area in and around the Temple in his description of the millennial temple in Ezekiel 40-48

The Great City is Jerusalem

Jerusalem is, in fact, called “the great city” in Revelation 11:8, and the new Jerusalem is called “the great city” in Revelation 21:10.

Jerusalem alone, of all the great cities of the earth, is thus to be spared destruction by the earthquake at the end of the tribulation. It is the one eternal city, and will survive as long as the earth endures in its present form, finally being replaced as the new Jerusalem, in the new earth. (Morris 1983, 319)

With God terraforming the planet back into the conditions that existed before the flood, cities are destroyed, the sea levels rise, the atmosphere changes and God is preparing the planet for Eden.

Zechariah 14:5–8

““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.” “At that time, the daylight will be neither bright nor overcast. It will be a unique day, known only to the LORD—neither daytime nor nighttime—and it will come about at twilight there will be light! At that time, flowing waters will run perennially from Jerusalem, half toward the Dead Sea and half to the Mediterranean Sea.” (ISV)

Genesis 2:10–15

“But a river goes out from Eden to water the paradise; from that place it separates into four sources. The name of the one is Pishon; this is the one encircling all the land of Havilah, there where the gold is. But the gold of that land is beautiful; and the carbuncle and the green stone are there. The name of the second river is Gihon; this is the one encircling all the land of Cush. The third river is the Tigris; this is the one going opposite the Assyrians. And the fourth river, this is the Euphrates. The Lord God took the human that he formed, and he placed him in the paradise to work and to keep it.” (Lexham Press 2020, Genesis 2:10–15)

Ezekiel 47:1–12

“And he brought me to the doorway of the house, and look, water was going out underneath the open space toward the east, because the face of the house faced toward the east, and the water was descending from the right side south of the altar. And he led me out along the way of the gate toward the north, and he led me around the outside way to the gate of the court facing east, and look, water was descending from the right side. Just as a man was exiting opposite, and a measure was in his hand, and he measured a thousand cubits with the measure, and he passed through in the water, water of a discharge. And he measured a thousand cubits, and he passed through in the water, water up to his thighs, and he measured a thousand cubits, and he passed through the water up to his waist. And he measured a thousand cubits, and he was not able to pass through, because it was overflowing with a torrent which they will not cross. And he said to me, “Have you seen, son of man?” And he led me to the bank of the river. When I returned, and look, on the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other side. And he said to me, “This water proceeding into the Galilee which is toward the east would also descend to Arabia and would come as far as to sea to the water of the estuary, and it will make the waters healthy. And this will happen: every creature of the living beings that teem upon everywhere the river comes will live. And there will be very many fish because this water has come there, and it will make healthy and will live. Everything upon which the river comes will live. And fishermen from En-gedi as far as En-eglaim will stand there; it will be a drying-place of large drag nets, it will be by itself, and its fish will be equal to the fish of the Great Sea, a very great multitude. And in its estuary and at its turning and at its high water mark they will certainly not become healthy; they have been given over for salt. And every fruit tree will arise at the river, on its bank on the one side and on the other side. It will certainly not decay upon it; neither should its fruit come to an end; it will bring forth its new produce, because these waters of theirs proceed from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food, and their ascent for health.”” (Lexham Press 2020, Ezekiel 47:1-12)

Isaiah 40:4–5

“Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” (ESV)

The Lord is fulfilling Isaiah 40:4-5, He is preparing to take full possession of what belongs to Him
There are still some who do not belong

Revelation 16:21

“And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe.” (NASB95)

Along with the earth shifting is vulcanism, everywhere. Massive explosions making Krakatoa look small, everywhere. This results in atmospheric upheavals; massive amounts of material being thrown into the atmosphere to include large rocks. The Greek though uses the term that is used for hailstones and does not use the term for rocks.

So here we have 100-pound chunks of ice and probably stone as well, falling from the sky everywhere, at over 100 miles per hour. The largest hail stones seen today weigh in at around 2 pounds, and they can kill.

Leviticus 24:16

“Moreover, the one who blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall certainly stone him. The alien as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.” (NASB95)

The sentence for blasphemy never changed.

Recall that the armies of the world have amassed in and around Israel. Millions of troops in the field, most of whom survived the massive earthquake, but the hail? “So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God. And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses’ bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.” (Revelation 14:19–20, NASB95)

The imagery of a wine press works well for this. One of the reasons why some consider the Gog Magog War to be this final battle is also because of the picture being drawn in scripture.

Ezekiel 38:18–23

“It will come about on that day, when Gog comes against the land of Israel,” declares the Lord GOD, “that My fury will mount up in My anger. In My zeal and in My blazing wrath I declare that on that day there will surely be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. The fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all the creeping things that creep on the earth, and all the men who are on the face of the earth will shake at My presence; **the mountains also will be thrown down, the steep pathways will collapse and every wall will fall to the ground.** I will call for a sword against him on all My mountains,” declares the Lord GOD. “Every man’s sword will be against his brother. With pestilence and with blood I will enter into judgment with him; and I will rain on him and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, with **hailstones, fire and brimstone.** I will magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am the LORD.” (NASB95)

Amid this judgement and devastation, God will show John what will happen to Babylon. Oh, and Jesus shows up.

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